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AND

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS

OF

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

OF THE

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,

HELD AT

CLEAR CREEK, PUTNAM CO., ILL.,

NINTH MONTH,

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ILLINOIS

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEN'S DIVISION.

1.—Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends met in its Twelfth Annual Assembly, at Clear Creek, Putnam County, Illinois, on the 13th day of Ninth month, 1886.

2.—The representatives on being called were all present except two, for whose absence satisfactory excuses were given:—

Blue River: Jehu Allen, Edward Foulke, Samuel Coale and Thos. H. Trueblood.

Prairie Grove: Thos. E. Hogue, Mahlon Hollingsworth, Joseph Hartley, Elijah Hogue and Benj. F. Nichols.

3.—A minute was read of a ministering Friend from another Yearly Meeting and the clerk is directed to prepare a minute acknowledging his presence at the usual time. [See minute No. 61 on page 14.]

4.—The Treasurer of Blue River Quarterly Meeting reports their quota of Yearly Meeting fund paid to the Yearly Meeting Treasurer. The authorized representative of Prairie Grove reports he has paid to the Treasurer their quota, also the deficiency mentioned in minute No. 4 of last year.

Ill. Hist. Survey

5.—The Committee to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes and to have 1,500 copies printed and distributed report the work performed.

6.—To assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this Meeting and to have 1,500 copies printed and distributed, we appoint Henry Atherton, John H. Mills, Thos. H. Trueblood, Elijah Hogue and Allen J. Flitcraft. They are authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the necessary funds and report next year.

7.—A proposition was made to this meeting that we reimburse all members of committees for time and money expended in the performance of special work which cannot be attended to during the sessions of the Yearly Meeting. After deliberation, the Meeting is united in appointing the following Committee to act in conjunction with women Friends, should they appoint one, to take the subject under advisement and report at a future session: Benj. F. Nichols, Abel Mills, Allen J. Flitcraft, Amos B. Wilson, Benj. Coale, Joseph Hartley and Thos. H. Trueblood. [See minute No. 29 on page 9.]

8.—To gather the exercises of this Meeting and report to a future session, we appoint John Belange, Wilmer Walton, Oliver Smith and Wm. W. Lamborn.

9.—The Committees on Co-operative Work, Temperance Interests, Indian Affairs, Prison Work, Isolated Friends and Literature, First-Day School Interests and Committee on Peace as Opposed to Military Training, are directed to report Fourth and Fifth days in joint session.

10.—To settle with the Treasurer, ascertain the amount necessary to be raised, also to present to this Meeting the name of a suitable person to serve as Treasurer for the ensuing year, we appoint John Newburn, Joseph Hartley, Oliver Smith and Aaron Shaw, who are directed to report during the session on Third-day.

11.—The Recorder reports having performed the work assigned him.

12.—To present the name of a suitable person to serve as Recorder, we appoint Isaac Vale, William Griffith and David Wilson. They are directed to report to-morrow morning.

13.—The Representatives are directed to confer together and present at our next session the names of suitable persons to serve as Clerk, Assistant Clerk and second Assistant Clerk for the ensuing year.

14.—The Meeting then adjourned until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

SECOND-DAY AFTERNOON.

15.—The 13th of Ninth-month, at the time adjourned to, the meeting convened.

16.—Elijah Hogue, on behalf of the representatives, reported they have conferred together and are united in proposing Oliver Wilson for Clerk, Allen J. Flitcraft for Assistant Clerk, and Morris A. Wilson for second Assistant Clerk, whose names being separately considered, were united with, and they are appointed to those stations for the ensuing year.

17.—The Clerk, in behalf of the correspondents, report that the epistles were all copied and forwarded to the Meetings to which they were directed.

18.—Morris A. Wilson and John H. Mills are continued as Correspondents, and are directed to report as to their work next year.

19.—We are in receipt of Epistles from each of the six Yearly Meetings with which we correspond. [See copies of epistles on pages 14–29.] The solemnity

which pervaded the meeting during their reading bore evidence that there is a feeling of fraternal love throughout our borders. To prepare a reply or replies to be sent to those meetings, we appoint Thos. E. Hogue, Griffith E. Coale, Morris A. Wilson, Henry Atherton, Sidney Averill and Allen J. Flitcraft, who are directed to report Fifth-day forenoon.

20.—The Meeting at this time entered upon the consideration of the State of Society, as shown by the answers to the queries from our subordinate meetings. The following summary answers were adopted as representing the state of society at the present time:

SUMMARY ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

Answer to 1st.—Most Friends, when able to do so, are diligent in the attendance of meetings for worship on First-day, and also for discipline; those near the middle of the week are generally small. Unbecoming behavior in most cases avoided. More care as to the hour of meeting is desirable.

21.—Then adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THIRD-DAY MORNING.

22.—The 14th of Ninth-month, at the time adjourned to, Friends assembled.

Ans. to 2nd.—One Meeting reports its members mostly maintain toward each other cordial fellowship and good-will. The other Meeting reports more love and fellowship existing toward each other than formerly. Tale-bearing and detraction are discouraged and when differences arise endeavors are made to end them.

Ans. to 3rd.—In apparel most of our members keep within bounds of reasonable simplicity. They appear thoughtful to encourage plain and honest speech and

kind and gentle dignity of deportment; a guarded care is extended against frivolous and pernicious literature, and selecting in its stead such as has a wholesome influence. The reading of the Scriptures is not as much encouraged as is desirable.

Ans. to 4th.—Our members are clear of importing, distilling and vending intoxicating liquors as a beverage. They avoid renting their property or selling their grain for such purposes. Not entirely clear of using intoxicants as a beverage. They are thoughtful in extending a pure temperance influence in their neighborhoods. Most Friends discourage the use of tobacco as being useless and injurious. There is a watchful care exercised against attending places of unprofitable diversion and demoralizing tendencies, although not entirely clear of frequenting such places.

23.—At this time, Edward Coale presented a concern to visit Women's Meeting. This meeting encourages him to proceed in his visit. Benj. F. Nichols and Thos. H. Trueblood expressed a concern to accompany him. This Meeting unites with them in this feeling.

Ans. to 5th.—Friends assist those requiring aid, and all children have good school advantages so far as is known.

Ans. to 6th.—Most of our members bear a faithful testimony in favor of a free Gospel Ministry, and against oaths, military service, prize goods and lotteries.

Ans. to 7th.—Most Friends live within the bounds of their circumstances and avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability. They are just in their dealings. Friends generally are punctual in complying with their engagements, and where there is reasonable ground for fear in this respect, care has been extended.

Ans. to 8th.—Those who have violated our vital tes-

timonies have been tenderly admonished with a desire for their restoration, but greater care in this respect would be profitable.

Ans. to 9th.—We believe Friends endeavor to be careful to educate their children and those under their care and to surround them by circumstances that will promote growth in the principles of morality. There are no schools under our care.

Ans. to 10th.—The queries addressed to the Quarterly, Monthly, Executive and Preparative Meetings, are read and answered as directed.

Ans. to 11th.—No Meetings have been established and none discontinued during the past year.

24.—The committee appointed under minute No. 12, report they are united in proposing the name of John H. Mills for Recorder. The Meeting deferred action until the committee appointed under minute No. 7 submits its report. [See minute No. 30 on page 9.]

25.—Then adjourned until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

THIRD-DAY AFTERNOON.

26.—14th of Ninth-month, at the time adjourned to, the meeting assembled.

27.—The committee appointed by minute No. 10, made a report recommending Amos. B. Wilson as Treasurer, with which the meeting unites and he is accordingly appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year. The Clerk is directed to inform the Quarterly Meetings of their respective quotas of the Yearly Meeting fund and to forward the same to our Treasurer. Blue River Quarterly Meeting informs this meeting that East Jordan Executive Meeting has changed its time of meeting

to First-day following the third Seventh-day in Second, Fifth, Eighth and Eleventh months. Also that the Preparative Meeting of ministers and elders to be held at the close of the Executive Meetings. Also Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting has been changed to the first Seventh-day in the Third, Sixth and Twelfth months, and is to be held on the Fifth day preceding Yearly Meeting in the Ninth-month. Meeting of Ministers and Elders, at 9:30 o'clock on the day of Quarterly Meeting.

28.—A request from Blue River Quarterly Meeting, asking the Yearly Meeting to petition the next Illinois Legislature to pass the bill known as the Scientific Instruction Bill, which requires to be taught in our public schools, a knowledge of the effect of alcohol on the human system. This meeting is united in referring the subject to the following committee to act with one of Women Friends, should they appoint a similar committee: Levi Hatton, Edward Foulke, Henry K. Smith, Allen J. Flitcraft and Joshua L. Mills, which is authorized to petition, memoralize or otherwise act as way may open. The committee is directed to report its action next year.

29.—The committee appointed by minute No. 7 made the following report, which was satisfactory. [See page 89 for this report.]

30.—The report of the committee appointed by minute No. 12, which was deferred by minute No. 24, was again taken up and in accordance with the rule adopted as recommended in the report under minute No. 29, Amos B. Wilson was appointed to serve as Recorder for the ensuing year.

31.—Then adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon in joint session.

FOURTH-DAY AFTERNOON.

31.—15th of Ninth-month, at the time adjourned to, Friends assembled in joint session.

32.—The Librarian made the following satisfactory report. The Clerk is directed to issue an order in his favor for the sum of $2.71. [See report on page 30.]

33.—A memorial from Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting concerning John C. Pickering was read and directed to be published with the proceedings of this meeting. [See memorial on page 29.]

34.—The Representative Committee recommend that 100 copies of the Essays of John J. Cornell on the "Views of Friends," be purchased and placed in the hands of our Librarian for distribution. This meeting unites with the recommendation and authorizes the Librarian to procure them.

35.—The following statistical reports were received from Blue River and Prairie Grove Quarterly Meetings showing the present membership. [See report on page 90.]

36.—The minutes of the Representative Committee were read and action taken thereon, with the exception of the paper entitled, "The Way to a Higher Life," which is deferred until another session. [See minute No. 53 on page 13.]

37.—The committee on Temperance Interests made the following report: Its recommendations are approved and it is authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the sum of $50 if needed. The committee is continued to labor in the cause and report next year. [See report on page 31.]

38.—The committee on "Prison Work and Criminal Reform," made the following satisfactory report: It is

continued and directed to report next year. [See report on page 67.]

39.—Benj. F. Nichols asks to be released as a member of the Prison Committee, and recommends the appointment of Ann Welch, which is satisfactory and she is accordingly appointed.

40.—The committee on Co-operative Labor presented its report as follows: The recommendation is approved. [See report on page 64.]

41.—To bring forward the names of suitable Friends to constitute a committee on Co-operative Labor for the ensuing year, we appoint Harley Cooper, Mary Griffith, John R. Benjamin, Sarah A. Coale, Lydia E. Wilson, John H. Mills, Thos. E. Hogue, Elijah Hogue, Ann E. Harrison, Benj. F. Nichols, Lauretta H. Nichols, Mahlon Hollingsworth, Edward Coale, Mary G. Smith and Thos. H. Trueblood, who are directed to report to-morrow afternoon.

42.—The committee in the interest of Isolated Friends and Literature, made the following report which was satisfactory, and It is continued and directed to report next year. [See report on page 66.]

43—The committee on Peace as Opposed to Military Training, made the following satisfactory report of its work. It is continued and directed to report next year. [See report on page 78.]

44.—The meeting then adjourned to meet in joint session to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

FIFTH-DAY MORNING.

45.—16th of Ninth-month, at the time adjourned to, the meeting convened.

46.—The committee on First-day School Interests made the following report, which was satisfactory. [See report on page 35.] Elwood Trueblood, Horace Welch and Alice Coale are appointed to constitute said committee and directed to report next year.

47.—The Committee on Indian Affairs made the following satisfactory report. Its recommendations are approved and It is directed to draw on the Treasurer for the amount of $30 if needed. It is to report next year. [See report on page 50.]

48.—The committee on "Society Deficiencies" presented Its report which was acted upon by sections. After a few corrections it was directed to be published with our minutes. [See report on page 71.]

49.—The recommendation referred to in the report of Society Deficiencies is deferred until this afternoon, to be acted upon in connection with a similar subject coming up from Blue River Quarterly Meeting. [See pages 84 and 85 for subjects referred to.]

50.—The meeting then adjourned to meet in joint session this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

FIFTH-DAY AFTERNOON.

51.—16th of Ninth-month, the meeting assembled at 2 o'clock.

52.—The subjects referred to in minute No. 49 were taken up at this time and resulted in the appointment of a nominating committee to present to this meeting the names of suitable Friends to take the subjects in charge. [See minute No. 57 on page 13.] Benjamin Coale, Lydia A. Wilson, Lydia Mills, Joseph Hartley, Elijah Hogue, Josephine Welch, Sarah Ann Coale and Ann Welch are appointed and directed to report to this session.

53.—The paper referred to in minute No. 36, entitled "The Way to a Higher Life," was read and directed to the care of the Publishing Committee to have 1,500 copies printed in pamphlet form to be distributed with our minutes.

53.—The committee to nominate members to constitute the co-operative committee submits the following report which is satisfactory. [See report on page 83.]

54.—The committee to prepare a memorial to be presented to the next Illinois Legislature, submits the following report, which is satisfactory, and the Clerks are directed to sign and forward through the committee to that body. [See report on page 84.]

55.—The Dining Hall Committee presented the following report, which is satisfactory, and It is continued, to report next year. [See report on page 83.]

56.—The Clerks inform this meeting that they have attended to all subjects entrusted to their care last year.

57.—The committee appointed by minute No. 52 made the following satisfactory report. Lauretta H. Nichols, by her request, is excused from serving on the committee. [See report on page 86.]

58.—Having finished the business claiming the attention of the joint session, we close to meet immediately at the rise of this meeting in separate session.

59.—After adjournment of Joint Session, we again met in separate session at 3:30 P. M., Fifth-day afternoon.

60.—The Committee on Epistles produced three; they were read and referred to the care of the Revising Committee. The meeting directs that the first one read be forwarded in the usual manner to New York and

Baltimore. The second one read, to Genessee and Indiana, and the third one to Ohio and Philadelphia. The Clerk is directed to sign on behalf of the Meeting.

61.—Isaac Hicks, a minister of New York Yearly Meeting, produced a minute of endorsement from Westbury Monthly Meeting, dated the 18th of 8th-month, 1886. We feel that his visit, as well as that of several other Friends from different Yearly Meetings without minutes, has been pleasant as well as profitable to us.

62.—The committee on Exercises presented the following, which was satisfactory. [See minute of exercises on page 86.]

63.—Having transacted the business that has come before us in much unity and true followship, we now conclude, to meet at the usual time and place next year.

OLIVER WILSON, *Clerk.*

EPISTLES RECEIVED AND READ.

FROM THE YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS HELD IN PHILADELPHIA BY ADJOURNMENT FROM THE 10TH DAY OF FIFTH MONTH, TO THE 14TH DAY OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE, 1886.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends:—

DEAR FRIENDS: The reading of the Epistles from the several Yearly Meetings, with which we are in correspondence, has renewed the feeling of near relationship to which our profession brings us as the children of our Heavenly Father, whose tender care extends over all, bringing them at seasons to realize in themselves the flowings of his love toward their brethren. In this

feeling we salute you with desires for your preservation and growth in the Truth.

Our gathering this year has been large, and in the consideration of the weighty and interesting subjects which have come before us, although differences of sentiment in some cases appeared, the unity of the body was maintained, and that spirit which only seeks the Father's honor was manifestly apparent, and the declaration that "Friends were preserved in love," was applicable to our several sittings.

A desire was expressed that we may earnestly labor to seek in all our movements, as individuals, and as a Society, the glory of the Great Head of the church, as the chief object of our concern and one which should prevail over every consideration of a personal nature, that we may endeavor to fulfill our duties to our Heavenly Parent, and to all men, even those who may look upon us with prejudice.

While in many parts of our large Yearly Meeting there is much weakness in the maintenance of our order, particularly in the attendance of our religious meetings, yet in some places an increased interest in the welfare of Society is evident and the number of those in the younger and middle walks of life who are coming for ward in dedication to the requirements of duty, gives hope for the perpetuation and growth of our Society. The marked advance in the religious world in relation to many of the testimonies of Truth encourages the hope that the day will come when all who profess the Christian name may be prepared to regard each other as brethren, and that the differences in externals will not prevent the fraternal relations of all the children of our Heavenly Parent.

In the opening session of our meeting a concern was expressed that each one should be found in his proper place, under the government of the inspeaking word of Divine love, that we may be kept in that harmony which will be a source of strength.

Here we shall be continually seeking the mind of Truth to know when and how we may apply the needed remedies for the deficiencies which appear, and to promote our advancement in the cause of Truth and righteousness. Those who are delinquent require tender care to draw them back to the fold. No unkind feelings should ever be manifested toward any of these, no matter how far they may have wandered from the Father's house, for his love is extended, as it always has been, toward the prodigals, and as we come under the influence of that love, our sympathies will be extended so as to tend to gather the wanderers, and while we are faithfully bearing our testimonies, we shall not needlessly add to the sufferings of those who may be compared to the sick.

We were feelingly reminded of the legacy left by George Fox in the advice "Friends hold all your meetings in the power of God." To be qualified to do this we must come in and under the power of that love which flows directly from the Father, and which is accessible to all His devoted and dedicated children.

During the consideration of the State of Society as regards the use of intoxicants, brought before us by the answers to our fourth Query, and the report of our committee on that subject, great encouragement was felt at the progress made among us in this respect. Although not entirely clear from the manufacture, sale and use of all intoxicating beverages, we believe there is an increasing concern to free ourselves from the use of these.

During the consideration of this subject a living concern was expressed that we discourage the use of tobacco, especially among the young, as injuring their physical, mental and spiritual natures and having a tendency in many cases to create and strengthen an appetite for intoxicating drinks.

Friends were earnestly exhorted to be prompt in the

payment of their debts, as delays cause much inconvenience to those who are struggling to do the same, and a concern was expressed that we should be more careful in regard to extravagance at funerals, that we avoid the use of costly caskets, and the indulgence of ostentatious displays and unnecessary entertainments on these occasions.

We have had the company of many friends from other Yearly Meetings; their presence and gospel labors were strengthening to us, reminding us that as "iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

We feel glad that obedient servants are willing to enter the vineyard of the Lord and labor in his service.

With a salutation of love, we are your friends.

By direction and on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid.

EMMOR ROBERTS, *Clerk.*

FROM BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, HELD BY ADJOURNMENTS, FROM THE 26TH TO THE 29TH DAY OF THE TENTH MONTH, INCLUSIVE, 1885.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, to be held at Mount Palatine, Illinois, the 13th of Ninth Month, 1886:—

DEAR FRIENDS: We have again been gathered with one accord in Annual Assembly, for the consideration of the affairs of our branch of the Christian Church.

A number of Ministers and concerned Friends from other Yearly Meetings have been acceptably with us. Their interest in the welfare of the body, and in our common heritage of *simple vital religion*, has tended to confirm us in devotion to the faith we hold.

The command of Jesus to his disciples to "Seek first the Kingdom of God and its Righteousness," was brought to our notice.

The sad results of ordering our lives upon the principle of leaving the riches of the Heavenly Kingdom out of the account, until we have first gathered the treasures of this world, have been set before us. Much of the acknowledged deficiency amongst us is distinctly traceable to this source. Our spiritual being, though not first, will in due time demand recognition, and, if entertained under the guidance of our Heavenly Father's love, will harmonize our whole being.

The subject of Education claimed our serious consideration. First for our own children, that they might have the benefit of schools under the care of Friends, to qualify them for the greatest usefulness ; also the condition of the great number of our fellow citizens, both white and colored, in some of the Southern States, who have not had the advantages of school learning, to fit them for greater usefulness. This, we hope, may be remedied by appropriation of means by the National Government, to establish schools amongst them, as needed.

The Indians still claim a portion of our sympathy and interest, that they may be admitted into citizenship and thus protected in their rights, so that all classes in our favored Nation may have the benefits of a Christian civilization. Our Committee is continued, to embrace every right opening to improve their condition.

The subject of Temperance still claims our earnest care, and we feel the importance of being ourselves *clean handed* in dealing with this great evil of the day, —the use of intoxicating liquors.

The First-Day Schools amongst us are claiming more attention from our Yearly Meeting, and we trust it may be a means of interesting the children in the great work of Redeeming love in their hearts, and preparing them to support Truth's Testimonies.

While we watch with interest other Religious professors, we feel that there is no deficiency in the *teachings* and *doctrines* of our Divine Master set forth in the New Testament, as understood and explained by early Friends and brought to our remembrance by the spirit of Truth, to which we feel to commend you with our own souls.

Signed on behalf of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, held on Lombard Street, in the city of Baltimore, as aforesaid.

LEVI K. BROWN, *Clerk.*

FROM THE YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, HELD IN NEW YORK, AND OPENED ON SECOND-DAY MORNING, THE 24TH OF FIFTH MONTH, 1886.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends:—

We have again been permitted under the Divine blessing, to assemble upon this, our annual occasion, to gather reports and information as to the spiritual condition and welfare within our borders.

It has been a source of satisfaction and encouragement to us to receive the Epistles that have been sent by different Yearly Meetings with whom we correspond, evincing, as they clearly have done on former occasions, and continue to do, that the overshadowing goodness and love of God is abundantly shed upon His children in all of the conditions and circumstances under which they may be found.

Through this medium of fraternal correspondence, we have been impressed anew with the earnest feeling and deep religious concern that have been conveyed to our body through these Epistles, expressing as they do, renewed and deeper interest in the living, important and

valuable testimonies and work of our beloved Society, and in the efforts that are made in various directions for the elevation and uplifting of human conditions.

As we have advanced in the work of our Yearly Meeting, we have not been without the evidences of the same Divine covering and guidance; and like concerns and interest have arisen with us for the maintenance and spread of the priceless testimonies so long borne which have been of such great help, spiritually and temporally, not only to the members of our body, but of invaluable help and service to the world.

We have had with us at this time an unusual number of Friends and co-laborers from other Yearly Meetings, whose company and exercises have been truly acceptable and cheering.

Earnest concerns have arisen with us, and received serious consideration, upon the various subjects that are closely connected with the highest welfare of mankind. Interest in the work of First-day Schools has been marked; large meetings have been held, and reports received showing increased interest in the spiritual culture of the young; and it is apparent that a greater love is awakening in the minds of those in the younger walks of life, as the outgrowth of this religious training that shall yet give substantial assurance of the perpetuation of our Religious Society.

The needs of continued temperance work have been clearly brought before our view. Intemperance, which stands so much in the way of spiritual life and development, is yet a great stumbling block to the honest seeker after truth, even outside of our fold; and the report from the Temperance Committee shows an increased interest in our subordinate Meetings in this work.

Valuable results have been accomplished in petitioning legislative bodies for the enactment of measures to bring greater educational helps to the young in our

public schools by a system of instruction showing to them clearly the harmful effects of narcotics and stimulants upon the human system; which, together with other helpful legislation asked for, has been obtained, and is already in practical use in our schools, giving great encouragement for future good works and efforts in this direction.

Education and its needs have been carefully considered, extending to the wants of the Indians and colored people. In reference to the aborigines of our country, our Representative Committee has recently addressed the President and memorialized Congress, looking to more effective measures to right the wrongs of this much injured people. While large numbers of the ignorant classes of our land are without those restraining influences that come from religious culture, and hence threaten to become a disturbing element in the social and business relations that exist among us, it is felt that in the education of those who have not its advantages, lies one of our greatest safeguards.

It has been apparent that the spirit of earnest, practical religious work has pervaded our deliberations at this time; and opportunity has been afforded for those who feel called in lines of special work, to do so, through the appointment of a Committee for philanthropic labor, under which will come appropriately the consideration of the subjects of arbitration, the Indians, temperance, prison reform, and others intimately connected with the interests of humanity, which now are, or may become living concerns in the work of our Society.

In reviewing the experience of another year, great desire has been expressed that the young may be drawn to the work of our orgazination; that they may know of the indwelling of the Divine Life in the soul; that they may be preserved in lives of purity, virtue, and holiness; that they may be crowned with righteousness,

realizing that we are living in a world of action, in the midst of living duties. May one and all become imbued with, and inspired by that spirit which dwelt so fully with Jesus when he said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." May we go forth in the work of the Blessed Master in that spirit, cheerfully and prayerfully accepting and performing the work and duties our hearts and hands find to do.

Finally, brethren, may we realize, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord," will the consummation be effected.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting.

ROBERT S. HAVILAND, *Clerk.*

By WM. H. WILLETS, *Ass't. Clerk.*

FROM GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS HELD AT FARMINGTON, N. Y., BY ADJOURNMENTS FROM THE 14TH OF THE SIXTH MONTH TO THE 17TH OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE, 1886.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends:—

DEAR FRIENDS:—Our Yearly Meeting convened as never before, in joint session, to transact the affairs pertaining to the Church, and as we gathered thus like one family, composed of fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, a solemn covering spread over the assemblage, and God, the All-Wise Father, was imploringly besought to pour out of this spirit upon our spirits, that we might dwell together in that unity which characterizes the true Disciples of Jesus.

Different states and conditions were found assembled with one accord in the one place and were ministered unto with fraternal regard and affection.

At the opening of the meeting for the transaction of the business of the Society, we were counseled by the

ripe experience of an aged brother, that all—the young, the middle-aged and those far advanced in years—should give earnest heed to the openings of Divine Truth, as revealed unto their mental understanding and be obedient thereto, and they would not only attain peace of mind, but realize a spiritual growth that would enable them to better withstand the many temptations by which they are surrounded. In the reading of the Epistles from the other Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, we were gratified and encouraged by the evidences presented, that our brothers and sisters in other parts of the heritage were still faithful and striving to maintain our testimony to the all-sufficiency of Divine inspiration as a leader and guide for the salvation of men.

As the state of Society was exhibited by the answers to the queries, we were exhorted not to give way to discouragement, even though deficiencies in their observance were apparent, particulary in the attendance of our religious meetings. Spiritual growth is oft-times slow, and good seed when sown in the unregenerated mind, frequently grows and ripens into a fruitful harvest of religious experience.

It was clearly shown that we often suffer much loss by allowing discouragement to overcome us, whereas, did we earnestly strive to fulfill the duties required of us and implicitly trust in our Heavenly Father, He would in His own good time, raise up "Standard Bearers" who would be qualified by Him to maintain His truth both by precept and example.

We were admonished that in neglecting the attendance of our religious meetings we lose many opportunities for gathering the enlarging and enobling impressions of the Father's love, and that the neglect in others of this important duty was a reason why religious organization was injured.

Religious experience does not come to all alike, its

growth and enlargement being a work of time, and although good resolutions are frequently formed by those who often absent themselves from meeting; yet, were we who steadily attend them, individually faithful, we might be instrumental in promoting a spiritual growth that will live with them long after we shall have passed away.

"Love and Fellowship" have a broader meaning than that of mere accord in sentiment and belief. It is a deep inward feeling that is promoted by a more intimate understanding of the spiritual life and experience of each other and will develop in us a broader Christian bond of union.

We were truly grateful that throughout our whole body none are found who indulge in the use of intoxicants. Those among us who are lukewarm and indifferent in regard to the Temperance Movement in our Society were asked to consider whether this fact was not sufficient evidence of the usefulness of our religious organization in this important work.

In our testimonies against war, oaths, intemperance and all forms of oppression, we were exhorted not to let our hands hang down in discouragement, but press forward in the work that may open before us, realizing that faithful obedience to the manifested will of God will not only assure success in the work, but the attainment of that peace of mind that passeth human understanding.

We have been favored with the company of several Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose presence and labor of love have been acceptable and strengthening to us.

In the transaction of the business that has claimed our attention, we feel that we have much cause for encouragement, as entire condescension and unity pervaded our gatherings, and although fears were entertained by some that in our joint sessions the expression would be

confined to a few or to one class, but such was not verified; and a feeling of gratitude pervaded our minds that we were permitted to thus collectively share in the travail of concerned and exercised minds among us.

With a salutation of love we remain your Friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting aforesaid.

JONATHAN B. NIXON, } *Clerks.*
MARY T. FREEMAN, }

FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, HELD AT MT. PLEASANT FROM THE 30TH OF EIGHTH MONTH TO THE 2ND OF THE NINTH MONTH, 1886.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting:—

DEAR FRIENDS:—Again drawn together to share the privileges and responsibilities of our Annual Gathering, the reading of your excellent Epistle with those from other Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, was listened to with marked interest. The corresponding travail of spirit and religious exercise portrayed in these, proves that we are very close together in religious life, however, divided as to space and circumstance.

Our commingling has been pervaded by harmony and good feeling.

While our Yearly Meeting is small compared with most of those with which we correspond, that Divine Agent likened to a "refiner of fire and a fuller of soap," withholds not from us the blessing promised to the two or three that are gathered together in His name.

An unusual number of Friends are in attendance from other Yearly Meetings, whose friendly intercourse and gospel labors have been truly acceptable to us, their spiritual exercise seeming to keep pace with our needs and strengthening us in our weakness.

In considering the state of Society we were admonished to attend faithfully the little meetings as a "reasonable service," and a concern was expressed with much life that the high standard maintained by our worthy ancestors shall be carefully sustained. If faithful in our generation as they were in theirs, the world may still, as formerly, point to this Society as a model of love and purity.

While Friends are still excluded from official work in the Indian Department, it is with much satisfaction that we have evidence of the steady progress of those tribes formerly in our care, in farming and other pursuits, tending to self-support and civilization. Our Indian Committee is continued with instruction to embrace any opportunity that may offer for effective work.

The subject of Temperance still claims our earnest attention and our committee on the subject seems alive to its importance. A deep interest exists to promote intelligent thought by the circulation of literature adapted to give a clear apprehension of the effects of alcohol upon the human system, and of the condition of our country as related to the traffic in intoxicants.

Here, as elsewhere, it is important that enlightened thought be subject to Divine qualification. As the light and power of truth expands in the mind the vision will be opened to see the importance of conforming our labor and testimony against this destroyer of all that is pure and good, to the alone principle that the Society of Friends has ever recognized as affective for the abrogation of evil. As this is attained we will be able to stand shoulder to shoulder and realize the full force of our strength. Convinced that the use of tobacco is hurtful and that it is a stepping stone to the use of alcoholic drinks, care is extended to guard the youth from acquiring its use.

We entertain a hope that we may ere long be able, as is now the case with our membership in regard to

spirituous liquors as a beverage, to report an entire clearness from it.

Our committee on Philanthrophic Work reports faithfulness in such work, as has been realized as ready for their hands. Some care has been extended to those congregated in jails, infirmaries, and children's homes.

The apparent results from judicious exertions in behalf of the young brought under the ban of the law, has been encouraging, renewing the injunction to remember those in bonds as bound with them.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

JOSEPH S. HARTLEY, *Clerk.*

FROM INDIANA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS HELD AT RICHMOND, IND., BY ADJOURNMENTS, FROM THE 28TH OF NINTH MONTH, TO THE 1ST OF TENTH MONTH, INCLUSIVE, 1885.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting:—

DEAR FRIENDS: Having been again permitted to meet in this our annual gathering, and with a feeling of that love which unites us in the bonds of true fellowship and which alone emanates from the Father, we again salute you.

The reading of your acceptable epistle, together with those from other Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, are renewed evidences that our beloved Society has not yet fulfilled its mission, but there are fields of labor in which all truly exercised and properly qualified minds may enter and labor for the growth and promulgation of those truths taught and practiced by our Blessed Master as in any former period in the history of our Society. We have been favored with the company of several Ministers from other Yearly Meetings, whose Gospel labors have been instructive and edifying, kindling anew in our minds the important

lesson that we are the children of one Common Father, and that his Holy Spirit is ever ready to instruct and direct us in the paths that lead to righteousness and peace.

It was prominently set before us, that any profession of religion that was not practiced in the home life and in our daily intercourse and business relations with men, must necessarily fall short of the high standard called for by our Blessed Lord and Master.

The consideration of the State of Society, as elicited by the reading of the Queries and Answers, brought to view, that while we are remiss in many of the requirements queried after, there is comfort in the belief that there are many faithful testimony-bearers among us, who by their example and precept, incite us to renewed diligence in the performance of every duty made clearly manifest by the Light within.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, report that but little opportunity has presented for labor during the past year, but is is gratifying to know that the tribe formerly under our care, has become self-sustaining.

Our committee was continued, but some of our Friends believe the time is not far distant, in view of the present humane treatment on the part of the Government, when Friends should take such action as may be necessary for withdrawal from official labor therein. The active co-operative interest taken by the younger members of our society in the transaction of the business before us, was very gratifying to our elderly Friends, realizing as they do, that upon them ere long the entire responsibility for the maintenance of our precious testimonies must rest.

It is the prayerful desire of many minds that we do not become discouraged by the wayside, but that we enter the various fields of labor now already white unto harvest and work there under the direction of the Holy Spirit, which teaches as never man taught, to the res-

toration and elevation of those who have lost their way, to a realizing sense of their duty to God and their fellow men.

The committee of humanitarian work felt that some progress has been made during the year, and are encouraged to continue their labors, under a feeling sense that all our labors for the elevation of mankind to be effective, must be owned by the Father.

We bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting.

DAVIS FURNAS, *Clerk.*

IN MEMORY OF JOHN C. PICKERING.

MEMORIAL OF WAPSINONOC MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

Believing as we do that when a prominent and exemplary member of our Society has been removed by Death from our midst, it is a duty we owe to ourselves and the memory of the departed to place on record a brief notice of his life and character, to the end that we who survive him may profit by his example and be strengthened in our endeavors to live upright and blameless lives. The subject of this memoir, John C. Pickering, was born in Belmont County, Ohio, 7th of Third-month, 1819, and on 21st of Tenth-month, 1843, was married to Lucy J. Baker, who, with a large family of sons and daughters, still survive him. He died 25th of Sixth-month, 1885. He was a lifelong and constant member of the Society of Friends. In 1864 he removed with his family within the limits of Wapsinonoc Monthly Meeting, Iowa, where he resided until his death. He was a kind husband and an affectionate parent, ever ready to assist the weak and distressed, a man of liberal views and sound judgment, he filled the

office of Elder in his meeting in a manner acceptable to his friends. Such had been his life, that the approaching close had no terror for him.

The lesson then for us to learn from this well-spent life, is the importance of so living, as like our departed Brother, to rob "Death of its sting and the grave of its victory."

The enclosed memorial was read in this meeting and approved and directed to be forwarded to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting, to be held at Highland, the 10th of Ninth-month, 1885.

Signed on behalf of Wapsinonoc Monthly Meeting, held at Highland, 29th of Eighth-month, 1885.

ELIJAH HOGUE, *Clerk.*

Read in and approved by Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting, held at Highland, 10th of Nlnth-month, 1885.

LAURETTA H. NICHOLS, *Clerk.*

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, now sitting:—

DEAR FRIENDS: The following is the report of the Librarian:

Our Penal Machinery and its Victims	1	copy.
Geo. Fox's Works	8	Volumes.
Clarkson's Portraiture of Quakerism	3	"
Gough's History of Quakerism	4	"
Clarkson's Review	1	"
Disciplines on hand	121	Copies.
Journal Prison Discipline and Philanthrophy	1	"

Several copies of the following Leaflets on hand—

Doctrinal:

Man as a Three-Fold Being.

Divine Worship.

The Bible.
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Gospel Ministry.
To our Young Men.
The Divine Power as manifest in Man.
Address to Absent Members.

Amount due the Librarian at last report:—

For Postage - - - - - - -	$3.01
Paid out since last report - - - - -	3.71
Total - - - - - - - -	$6.72

Received, per order:—

Ninth-month, 1884 - - - - - -	$3.00
To Fourth-month, 1885, for four Disciplines -	1.00
Total - - - - - - - -	$4.00
Due Librarian to date - - - - -	$2.71

Respectfully submitted,
ABEL MILLS, *Librarian.*

CLEAR CREEK, ILL., Ninth-month, 15, 1886.

TEMPERANCE REPORT.

We the Committee on Temperance Interests, submit the following report of our work during the past year.

Many of our members have labored diligently in the cause of temperance, and we are pleased to note that there is an increased interest throughout the country for the promotion of temperance sentiment, notably so in Iowa and Kansas.

Owing to our existing laws, we deemed best to divide our committee work, so that we could all work in the way to accomplish the best results.

In the fall and early winter we succeeded in introduc-

ing into about twenty schools in Iowa, Coleman's catechism on alcohol and tobacco, with teacher's manual explaining them, requiring over 400 books.

We are well satisfied from the reports received, that the effort to educate the children to the importance of a "moderate use of everything good and total abstinence from every thing evil," has been commenced at the right place.

The Iowa Legislature has (since the above work was done) passed a compulsory Temperance Education bill, which will take the place of this kind of work in that State.

But in States where you have not such a law, we would earnestly recommend the use of such books until you can by petition, or memorial, succeed in obtaining such laws as will teach this important branch of useful knowledge to the youth.

Bands of Hope have been furnished with books and cards at Mitchell, Dakota Territory, Chanute and Parsons, Kansas, and Clarence, Iowa.

There was also a society called Earnest Workers, formed at Downey, Iowa, numbering about 100 members. The only difference in the pledge from that of the Band of Hope, being in the omission of the Tobacco clause.

Interesting reports have been received from the above Bands showing that much good is being done.

Over 200 Temperance and White Cross Pledge Cards have been used among the children and young people with very gratifying results.

We would also report that a considerable amount of labor has been performed by members of the committee and other members of the several Monthly Meetings, besides a considerable amount of money has been expended in the enforcement of the Prohibition law.

We desire to encourage faithfulness upon the part of the members of our meetings, in bringing to justice the

violators of our excellent law, and while we have to regret the disposition on the part of many of our citizens to evade the law, we are encouraged by the suppression of much public crime that formerly occupied our police courts, and rest assured that the saloon will never again have a legal existence in Iowa.

The work done throughout those states that have no prohibitory laws, has been mostly confined to the spreading of literature in order to build up a stronger temperance sentiment, in the hopes that in the near future these states may also be free from the legalized saloon.

Several of our subordinate meetings have Temperance Committees to work in their own localities.

One of our members, as a teacher of a Kindergarten School, carefully instils total abstinence principles as regards intoxicants and tobacco, through the pleasant method of kindergarten teachings, we do not doubt with a far reaching and valuable influence.

Other work more or less actively with the W. C. T. U. and other temperance organizations.

While others still respond to the calls for temperance literature and distribute as way opens.

We have during the year distributed 100 (yearly subscriptions) of the Temperance Banner," also 25 copies of books by Canon Farrer and Richardson, Dr. Davis and others, and 900 leaflets in Nebraska and 800 leaflets in Kansas.

To Iowa, - -	1,500
" Illinois, - -	3,600
" Indiana, - -	1,200
" Ohio, - -	350
" Pennsylvania, -	800
Total - - -	9,165 of 18,220 pages.

Considerable numbers in the aggregate have been sent out in smaller packages in various directions and often to persons not of our membership, who meet with

one or more copies of our list of leaflets, and wish to aid in distributing them.

We have had printed during the year without expense to the Yearly Meeting, from the Yearly Meeting series:

2,000 Copies No. 6 The Two Workers.
1,000 Copies No. 7 Voices of the Ages.
2,000 Copies No. 8 Island and City of Many Such.
2,000 Copies No. 10 What are We Going to Do?
2,000 Copies No. 12 For Young Men.
And from the Central Meeting series:
5,000 Nothing and Something.
5,000 To Wage Workers.

19,000 Leaflets of 31,000 pages.

We would recommend the organization of temperance societies to increase the sentiment of total abstinence, educating the people to believe that the total prohibition of the liquor traffic is the only sure way to overcome this terrible crime, and we believe Friends should be active in securing such laws that will forever banish the legal existence of this, the worst enemy of the human race.

We would further recommend that the meeting continue its call by a committee, putting at its disposal the sum of $50 for its use, if needed.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT.

From 11th Month, Fifth-day, 1885, to 6th Month, First-day, 1886—

Catechism, 408 copies, 5 cents - -	$20.40
Manual, 13 copies, 25 cents - - -	3.25
Band of Hope, 151 copies - - -	5.77
Pledge cards and samples, cards and papers 210 - - - - - -	2.38

4 Recitation and Declamation books, 10 cents		.40
Postage at sundry times - - - -		1.40
Postage distributing 900 tracts - -		6.00
		$39.60

Twelfth-month, 20, To Mary G. Smith, Hoopeston, Ill.—

115 Temperance cards -	$ .80	
75 copies Band of Hope - -	3.00	
To J. W. Heacock, Canton, Ind.—		
30 copies Coleman Catechisms	1.50	
To sundry individuals—		
15 Coleman Catechisms - -	.75	
18 Band of Hope - - -	.66	
Postage to sundry individuals	1.04	
		$7.75

Yearly subscriptions to Temperance Banner—

25 copies Temperance Banner, S. Williams, Champaign, Ill. - - - -	$3.00
25 copies Temperance Banner, G. E. Coale, Holder, Ill. - - - - - -	3.00
25 copies Temperance Banner, Post Master, Magnolia, Ill. - - - -	3.00
25 copies Temperance Banner, Post Master, Mt. Palatine - - - - -	3.00
Exchange on same	.10
Signed on behalf of the committee. Total	$59.45

OLIVER WILSON, *Chairman.*

FIRST-DAY SCHOOL REPORT.

The Committee on First-day School Interests reports there has been nothing done by them during the year as a committee. From reports received by the

Annual Association, we believe the interest in First-day School Work is maintained.

We are in full sympathy with the cause and recommend that the proceedings of the F. D. S. A. be printed with the minutes of the Yearly Meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

OLIVER WILSON.

MINUTES OF FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Illinois First-Day School Association of Friends met in its twelfth annual session, Ninth-month, 11th, 1886.

Reports were received from Prairie Grove and Blue River Quarterly Associations, with the names of Josephine Hollingsworth, Josie I. Welch, Lauretta H. Nichols, Thos. E. Hogue, Benj. F. Nichols and Mahlon Hollingsworth as representatives from Prairie Grove, and Elenora Coale, Edward Coale, Joshua L. Mills and Elizabeth H. Coale from Blue River.

Prairie Grove reports three schools in session, with a combined average attendance of 96, and an increased interest in some of them. Blue River reports four schools with an average total attendance of 170. They both forward papers to this Association.

Epistles have been received from New York, Indiana, Philadelphia and Genesee Associations. They have been read and listened to with marked attention and we have had the earnest counsel of these epistles impressed on our hearts by many who have been moved to do so by the loving Christian spirit therein expressed.

We appoint Lauretta H. Nichols, Josie I. Welch, Alice Coale, Sarah Wilson, Benj. F. Nichols, Wilmer Walton, David Wilson and Edward Coale a committee to prepare and bring forward to next session, replies to the same, and also to Ohio and Baltimore from which we have not heard.

A paper forwarded by Blue River Association entitled "Prevention Rather than Cure," was next presented and the sentiment heartily endorsed. It is directed that one member from each Monthly Meeting in Blue River Quarter be appointed to make an effort to have it published in their local papers. Thos. H. Trueblood, Abel Mills, Mary G. Smith, Allen J. Flitcraft, George John, James W. Heacock, Griffith E. Coale and Sidney Averill, are appointed such committee.

The representatives are requested to confer together and bring forward to next session the names of suitable persons to serve as clerk and assistant.

Then adjourned to meet on Third-day evening at half-past seven o'clock.

Ninth-month, 14th, 1886, near the time adjourned to, the Association met in its second session.

One of the representatives reports that they conferred together and are united in proposing the name of Josephine Hollingsworth for Clerk, but on account of sickness she is detained at home; they thereupon proposed the name of Lauretta H. Nichols for Clerk, and Sarah P. Wilson for Assistant.

Being separately considered they are united with and are appointed to that service the ensuing year.

The Treasurer presented the following report which is approved and accepted by the meeting.

Oliver Wilson in account with F. D. S. Association:

DR.

9th-mo., 14, 1885.	To Balance, -	$38 87	
9th-mo., 14, 1886.	To Treasurer Blue River Association, -	2 50	—$41 37

CR.

Twelfth-month, 14th, 1885.	By Cash to Edwin Blackburn,	$40 00	
	Exchange on same -	15	—$40 15
Balance on hand - - - -			$1 22

OLIVER WILSON, *Treasurer*.

Epistles having been received from Ohio and Baltimore Associations since our last session, were now presented to this meeting.

The papers forwarded from Prairie Grove Quarterly Association have been read, eliciting some expression of sentiment on the various subjects presented.

The Clerks are directed to prepare and forward to the approaching General Conference to be held at Philadelphia, Eleventh-month, 4th, 1886, a report of the schools composing this Association and other matters connected therewith. As delegates to the General Conference, we appoint Edward Coale, Emma R. Flitcraft, Morris A. Wilson, Lydia E. Wilson and Louis Coale.

To act as members of Executive Committee of General Conference, we appoint Thomas E. Hogue, Benjamin F. Nichols and Lydia E. Wilson.

The subject of the Lesson Leaves being introduced, the Association is united in the view that we recommend to the General Conference the continuation of their publication, with an outline of helps for infant classes, and the Association directs that the Executive Committee take measures to provide the means for paying our quota of the expense.

The Epistles prepared in reply to those received, are placed in the hands of the Executive Committee to be revised and forwarded to their destination.

The meeting then concluded to meet on Seventh-day preceding Yearly Meeting next year, at 3 o'clock.

LAURETTA H. NICHOLS,
SARAH P. WILSON, } *Clerks.*

FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS FOR THE PROMOTION OF FIRST-DAY SCHOOLS, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING.

To Illinois First-day School Association:

DEAR FRIENDS: Freshened in spirit and renewed

in faith by the results which the last year of practical work in our department has given us, we come again to greet you.

'Tis said one "grows in strength as he moves forward with the consciousness of right endeavor," and we feel that a step upward and onward in the great scale of human progress and spiritual growth has been made by the recent action of our Yearly Meeting, which encouraged the placing of the work of our First-day Schools under the shelter and care of society.

That which the united need of a people calls for should be evident to all who love their fellow-men, and when the light of the seventeenth century sent its power abroad through the instrumentality of early Quakerism, it was not meant that it should fall into medieval darkness again, but that it should permeate the world. If we have not fulfilled that bolder mission designed for us throughout these recent years, the fault lies simply at our own door, for the Christ-power, strong and earnest, has ever been near and around our people.

We are strengthened in the belief that the call which has gone to our subordinate meetings, asking for greater care over our members, lest any should go astray, is one which reaches far out into the needs of life and opens anew the mission of the "Children of the Light."

Under this influence we have already seen some of our schools assume a stronger bearing.

Our grave and spiritual elders who rarely joined in the work of the First-day Schools, are now meeting with us, smiling on the eager faces of the children, while the earnest worker who has toiled long and faithfully to fulfill individual duty, feels indeed that the oft-repeated prayer is being answered.

The Lesson Leaves which have been largely accepted by the schools are acknowledged by many as a great aid

in class instruction; there is sufficient latitude given by them for the added influence of a spiritual teacher's gift, and while they may furnish the ground work of the lesson, we trust the letter of the law will not circumscribe that offering which the heart must ever render.

Our deep and fervent prayer for the First-day School fellow-worker is, may the clear faith known to our fathers, be held by us in singleness of spirit, and in the full light of truth, while the larger culture and more liberal breadth of to-day entering into all our works, be recognized as the associated gift, which moving with it in true spiritual life, will lift above the darkness of error into the realms of a purer happiness, and a better life.

We yet need more of a true devotional spirit, more of the fervent grandeur of the regenerated, more of the higher nature unruled by the world, so let us hope that out of our labor in the First-day Schools, such Christ-like servants of the living truth may arise with healing in their wings, that as the bread cast upon the waters returns after many days, so may our children and our children's children be blessed by our minglings together.

Signed on behalf of the Association by direction of the meeting, held 5th month, 12th, 1886.

S. Raymond Roberts,
Tacie Albertson,
Clerks.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting First-Day School Association:—

Dear Friends: As the time for your yearly commingling for worship of the Almighty Father, and to commit yourselves anew to the performance of such works as may, by Him, be pointed out to you as His requiring, we feel drawn to assure you of our love and

of our earnest hope that He may be with you, as in the past, to bless you. We know that when two or three are gathered together in His name, what the promise is. Just so well do we know that He will be with the *many* similarly gathered.

In Tenth-month last we held our 21st Annual Meeting, and we think we may say our best.

Our Assembly was large and came together under a deep and solemn covering that always is inspired when devotional feeling pervades assembly.

When we met as usual, on Second-day evening of Yearly-Meeting week, nearly the whole Yearly Meeting seemed to have come in to partake with us of the feast for the occasion.

As, after our routine or statistical business had been dispatched, we proceeded to consider the state and condition of the First-day Schools under our care, a deep concern seemed to arise that greater opportunity should be given to digest and assimilate the many good points brought out by reading and discussing the reports and epistles kindly forwarded from our own schools and Unions, and from our Sister Associations.

All too soon did the time allotted us pass by.

Under a deep feeling that the time for the Yearly Meeting to consider First-day School matters had come, a proposition to lay before that body the question of recognizing the First-day School work was approved.

The Yearly Meeting cordially considered the matter and adopted the following minute, viz.:

The Joint Committee appointed at a former sitting to consider the propriety of recognizing the First-day School Asssociation of Baltimore Yearly Meeting as an auxiliary to our Society, made a report as follows:—"That the Yearly Meeting now recognize the work."

"They also favor that the Yearly Meeting recommend to the Monthly Meetings the appointment of committees on First-day Schools; that the Yearly Meeting

appoint a small Central Committee on the subject, to advise and consult with the Monthly Meeting Committees, to which the latter shall report, and that the Central Committee annually make out a digest of these reports to the Yearly Meeting as their report, which was accepted."

Thus did the first formal recognition of our work come about. From that date new life seemed to enter the work and a more healthy existence to be vouchsafed to it.

The kind Father, after allowing the devoted workers in this field to wander more than a score of years in the wilderness of experiment and unsupported effort seemed then to call his children home for the "well done."

The past year has been fruitful of good results in the First-day School field of labor in this part of the Master's vineyard. The work, we think, has deepened in devotional spirit, and both teachers and pupils seem drawn closer to one another and to the Head of the Harvest.

We acknowledge the assistance afforded us by the Lesson Leaves. These seem to have drawn those who were looking around for outward help to greater reliance upon our own abilities, and to show them that the rational views taken by Friends have a deep and broad foundation in Truth as taught by Jesus, notably in his Sermon on the Mount.

We feel, too, that there is a growth in a knowledge of our principles and testimonies among our young people, who, to-day, more than in any other period of our existence, as First-day Schools, desire to be and are able to give a reason for the faith that is in them. As they thus increase in a knowledge of these and practice upon them, there is an increased knowledge of divine things, accompanied by a love for them, or in other words a growth in Grace.

As the season for another gathering of the General

Conference approaches, and we call to memory many of the rich feasts of love that we have enjoyed together on the occasion of past meetings, there arises within us the hope that Our Father may inspire many of our Western co-laborers with desires to come to this part of the vineyard "and help us." Right gladly will we greet all of you who may be led to come hitherward.

Signed on behalf of Baltimore Yearly Meeting First-day School Association.

ELI M. LAMB,
ELIZABETH B. PASSMORE, } *Clerks.*

To the First-day School Association of Illinois Yearly Meeting :—

Permitted again to assemble in conference upon the interests of the First-day School cause, our hands have been strengthened and our hearts warmed by the reports received and by the evidences of continued zeal in the work.

There is certainly abundant reason for thankfulness in the thought that the work in which we are specially engaged has gradually commended itself to the favorable opinion of the society, and that it has at length won for itself a sincere and cordial recognition. Henceforward, hand in hand with other vital concerns of our beloved organization, it will receive the nurture and strength the body may give, and in return we trust it may prove so true to its mission, that it will so imbue the young people who come under its influence with a love of truth, of piety and of the principles of our religious society, as to make them active and earnest in the promotion and dissemination of these principles and thus infuse new life and vigor into the body.

That the cause has so far prospered is due, not to "creaturely activity," but to an earnestness on the part

of the teachers, born of conviction; to an inspiration as real as actuates the true preacher; to a reliance, as we verily believe upon a Divine Power to direct and control their efforts and their labors; to a devout and prayerful spirit. Now, as in times of Gamaliel, the law still holds, "If this work be of men, it will come to naught, but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it," and upon this law must its future be based, and to this law therefore do we feel drawn to commend all who would labor among the little ones in the First-day School.

But while thankful for so much, we nevertheless feel that so far, our work has been in the main negative, preparatory, hardly more; it has been clearing away obstacles, overcoming opposition, removing indifference.

It has been educating a part of a generation into a belief that properly conducted, the First-day School is a useful supplement to the home and the meeting. The idea has just fairly become rooted and the minds of parents are even now but just realizing how important a function it may come to perform, how exalted a mission is within its scope, without complacency, without pride, we may claim that a good foundation has been laid, a good beginning had. The real work is yet to come.

Beloved friends to whom these words may come, we beseech you not to toss them carelessly aside. You believe in Quakerism, you love its simple faith, you admire its freedom from shams and ceremonies and needless forms, you cling lovingly to its traditions even.

You would emulate the virtues, the sturdy and courageous zeal of the dear fathers and mothers in the church; and while desiring all these things you too desire no less to push on the standard, to make it worthy even more of your own and your children's acceptation. How else can you do it more effectively than through the hearts of the young, how else so readily?

We would that in our society, as in so many others, a common zeal might pervade its members; that all might prayerfully consider their relation to the cause of Truth and that all might be ready to enlist in the work before them. All cannot be preachers nor all teachers, "There are diversities of gifts," but we believe that the most earnest, the most spiritually minded, those most in sympathy with the young, who can enter into their lives and their hearts are *divinely called* to their instruction and we beg to be true to the "Heavenly vision."

Then indeed shall we see the waste places in the society green again, the wilderness blossoming as the rose. "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree."

With greetings of loving sympathy we remain your friends.

Signed on behalf of the First-day School Association of New York Yearly Meeting.

Jos. A. Bogardus, } *Clerks.*
Almira B. Tubby, }

From the First-day School Association of Genesee Yearly Meeting to that of Illinois:

Meeting in the capacity of a First-day School Association we do not feel ourselves assembled in any of the ante-rooms, but in the inner court, the very holy of holies of our Society. And in this consecrated place, moved by a feeling of universal love bubbling up in our hearts, we send you our greeting and endeavor to return, in part, compensation for the rich spiritual feast the several epistles brought to us. We rejoice to notice the steady onward progress of the First-day School movement in our own and sister Yearly Meetings.

Many who opposed it at first are heartily with us now, and gave the experience of their conversion and a

living testimony to its usefulness and good. Let us heed the call of duty in the noble work; gather in the children; guard them; let not the world steal away in its plastic period the material God designed to form into beautiful vessels sacred to His own use. To accomplish this let us employ every rightful means and thank God for the preservation for our instruction and imitation of the records of one who never wandered from the Father's presence. Let the life of Jesus of Nazareth point out to us the possibilities of our own lives; His power. our power; His God, our God. Let us love and associate with the blessed truths of the Bible, for what we love and associate with that we become.

The First-day School is a blessing to the old as well as to the young. It leads them through the children's door into the spirit land. For "unless ye become as one of these little ones ye cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." Mingling with the dear little ones tends to clothe us more with the mantle of childlike simplicity. "Heaven lies about us in our infancy." We catch from their reflecting hearts, as the light of Heaven smiles down into them, glimpses of the innocence and purity of the Christ-nature.

Many words of thankfulness and encouragement were handed forth. Let us keep open this children's door into the spirit world, for, through it is flowing a flood of light and life and purity and innocence into our own lives,our Society and the world,and that the broadening and expanding nature of the religion of Jesus Christ is manifesting itself in our borders as never before.

From the present outlook we can but be cheered with the thought that the great profession that we make to the world of being led by the spirit of God, will ere long radiate such an influence in all our actions that none can discover a narrow selfish interest characterizing our lives, but rather like the good Samaritan, we are willing to lend a helping hand in all true reform

movements of the age, regardless of name or profession. When we find the indulgence in strong drinks and tobacco so openly condemned in nearly all our epistles and essays, we only feel to toil on in hope, trusting that as we are willing to aid in the work that we may realize the prayer of our hearts, that God's kingdom may come and His will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

SAMUEL P. ZAVITZ,
MARY T. FREEMAN, } *Clerks.*

To the Annual Meeting of the First-day School Association of Illinois Yearly Meeting, held Ninth-Month, 13th, 1886:—

The encouraging and soul-inspiring Epistles from the Sister Associations were listened to with marked attention, and we hope will tend toward renewing an earnestness and zeal in behalf of the First-day School cause.

Our Association was favored with encouraging reports from the different Schools; some evincing an awakening on the part of our older members to the importance of lending their presence and influence in behalf of the cause.

Where meetings are small and children few, evidence has been given of the beneficial results where all have devoted a portion of time to the work.

While we realize that we are far from attaining a satisfactory standard in our schools, we believe there is an earnest and prayer-felt effort on the part of our laborers to seek for light and wisdom.

A few quiet moments snatched from the busy world and spent in prayer and meditation are fitting preparations before asking "great things of the Lord," whose promise is, "Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."

Where Teachers feel a call to the work with the inspiring love of our Heavenly Father to chasten and purify the soul, thus fitting them to prepare the lesson and thoughtfully linger over its passages until the full meaning comes home to the heart, more deeply than ever before, they must receive some qualification for molding the minds of the young and sowing the seed in the prepared soil, that it may take root in its own good time.

If minds were thus prepared, would not our schools cease to be lifeless? Would not those who teach have a message fresh and warm from the heart? And would not those who listen receive the message joyfully nor think of criticizing the manner nor language, even if somewhat faltering or uncultivated?

"Oh, let the soul her slumbers break;
Let thought be quickened and awake,
Awake to see
How soon this life is past and gone,
And Death comes softly stealing on;
How silently."

With greetings of love, we remain your Friends.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting of the First-day School Association of Ohio Yearly Meeting, held Eighth-month, 30th, 1886.

MERCY J. GRIFFITH,
LEONA M. WHINNERY, } *Clerks.*

To the First-day School Association of Illinois Yearly Meeting:—

Greetings, oh! friends of the Prairie State,
Sweet greetings we send to you,
Greetings of love and patient trust
And a faith that is strong and true.
A love that deep in the human heart
Makes it a thing divine,

A trust that bridges the way of life
And spans the stream of time.
And faith; oh, what of that, my friends?
A faith that stands the test
Of life and its dark vicissitudes,
And bids us do our best.
Although the clouds are hanging low
And the air is full of din,
And our little barque is tossed about
Without its Christ within.
Yet faith, and hope, and patient trust
Have kept us on our way;
Most tenderly the seed we drop
And guard it night and day,
And nurture it with many prayers
And water it with tears,
But still there's little show of life,
And hope is lost in fears.
Yet fear is not the Christian's shield
Nor yet the warrior's bow.
Then fill with us the thinning rank
And let us face this foe,
That lures away our young and fair,
The pride of all the land,
And with a firm and patient tread
Go with them hand in hand,
Along the rough and thorny way
Of life, so fraught with pain,
And though they sometimes step aside,
We'll win them back again—
Yes, back again, to God and truth;
And if they would find rest,
Oh! teach them they must lean in faith
Upon our Savior's breast.
And thus while helping other hearts
To find the better way,
Our own will purer, stronger grow,
With every coming day.
The "Shepherd of Souls" will watch with us,
As we feel he will with you,
By those kindly words you sent to us
Of friendship warm and true.
And oh! those words have seemed to us
As manna from the Lord,
And made a welcome dainty dish
Upon our frugal board.

In kindest love and charity,
  Then let us strive to dwell;
The rich reward that it will bring,
  "Eternity shall tell."
And though the way is often dark,
  Still let us not despair;
For the angel of boundless love we see,
  Still hovering in the air.

On behalf of Indiana First-day School Association.

EMILY P. YEO,
ELIZABETH M. CHAPMAN, } *Clerks.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, WITH ACCOMPANYING LETTERS AND MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION OF DELEGATES FROM SEVEN YEARLY MEETINGS.

DEAR FRIENDS:—In submitting this our annual report, we can, perhaps, only reiterate what you already know, that our connection with the Government having ceased, we can only do what we find to do now in a missionary way, and in this view all the Yearly Meetings seem to heartily agree not to lose any opportunity that may present either in or out of Congress, through which or by which the bettering of the condition of the Indian can be accomplished. It seems almost a necessity that we keep a vigilant eye on any act of Congress, as there are so many channels through which the white man seeks to usurp the just rights of this persecuted people. I submit herewith the proceedings of the conventions held since last report, together with a letter published in the Oxford *Press* from Levi K. Brown, giving a very interesting account of his recent visit among the Indians. Your committee has expended the sum of eighteen dollars ($18).

Should the Yearly Meeting think best to continue its work, I would recommend that it set apart the sum

of thirty dollars for its use, all of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of the sub-committee.

JOSHUA L. MILLS, *Chairman.*

Ninth-month, 14th, 1886.

A report from Joshua L. Mills and other documents coming before the Committee on Indian Affairs, were considered and directed to be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

MAHLON HOLLINGSWORTH.

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION OF DELEGATES OF THE SEVEN YEARLY MEETINGS OF FRIENDS, REPRESENTING THE SOCIETY ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

At a called meeting of delegates to represent the Society of Friends on Indian Affairs, held at Lombard Street Meeting House, Baltimore, 27th of Tenth Month, 1885,

There were present from

New York—Thomas Foulke.

Philadelphia—Daniel Foulke.

Baltimore—Richard T. Bentley, Darlington Hoopes, Edward Stabler, Jr., Joseph J. Janney, Mary C. Blackburn, Thomas H. Matthews and Levi K. Brown.

Genesee—None.

Ohio—None.

Indiana—None.

Illinois—Cyrus Blackburn.

The minutes of last meeting of the Convention were read and approved.

The Executive Committee made a verbal report of their labors at Washington during the summer on various subjects of interest to the Indians, which was satisfactory.

A copy of the annual report of Isaiah Lightner to the department at Washington was received and read. It was interesting, as it exhibits clearly the continued progress the Indians at Santee Agency are making in civilization, school learning and agriculture.

Information was received that the resignation of Isaiah Lightner as Indian Agent at Santee had been accepted, and Charles Hill, a member of our Society, who has been for some years past Superintendent of Farm Operations at the Agency, has been appointed to succeed him as Agent. This appointment we have no doubt will be acceptable to these Indians, and the policy so successfully inaugurated by the late Agent continued.

A copy of a very interesting paper prepared by our valued Friend Barclay White, formerly Superintendent of Indian Agents in Nebraska, at the request of Commissioner Eaton of the Bureau of Education at Washington, was received and read, showing the condition of the several tribes of Indians when Friends assumed charge of them by invitation of President Grant in 1869, and their progress in civilization and self-support whilst they continued under the care of Friends.

The Secretary was directed to have 2,000 copies of this concise and explicit statement of the success of Friends in civilizing the Indians, whilst acting as Agents, printed for distribution.

The Treasurer presented a statement of his account, with the vouchers for his payments made during the past year, which was submitted to Daniel Foulke and Cyrus Blackburn for examination, audit and settlement. They subsequently made report that the account was correct and a balance in his hands of $23.80. The report is approved and the sum of $150 directed to be collected for the use of the Convention during the coming year. Yearly meetings are requested to for-

ward to the Treasurer their proper proportion of this sum on the receipt of his official notice.

The Secretary was directed to furnish the Clerks of the Indian Committees of the several Yearly Meetings with a copy of these minutes.

Then adjourned to meet in the City of Philadelphia in the Fifth month next. Due notice to be given by the Secretary.

LEVI K. BROWN, *Secretary.*

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION OF DELEAGTES REPRESENTING THE SEVEN YEARLY MEETINGS OF FRIENDS, ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

At a meeting of delegates representing the Seven Yearly Meetings of Friends on Indian Affairs, convened at Race Street Meeting House, Philadelphia, 11th of Fifth month, 1886, there were present as follows:

From Philadelphia—Edmund Webster, Amos J. Peaslee, Clement M. Biddle, Martha Dodgson, Susan D. Wharton, Margaretta Walton, Alfred Moore, Daniel Foulke, Susan Roberts.

Baltimore—Joseph J. Janney, Edward Stabler, Thomas H. Matthews, Levi K. Brown, Darlington Hoopes.

New York—Stephen R. Hicks.

Ohio—None.

Indiana—None.

Genesee—None.

Illinois—Cyrus Blackburn. Abel Mills, a member and minister of that Meeting, was also in attendance.

The minutes of last meeting, held in Baltimore, were read and approved.

The Clerk informed that the edition of 2,000 copies of the report of Barclay White, made to Commissioner John Eaton of the Bureau of Education at Washington,

directed by last meeting to be printed, had been attended to, and the same distributed to the different Yearly Meetings in their proper proportion.

The Central Executive Committee having the oversight of Indian affairs at Washington produced a report which was read and their labors approved, as follows:

To the Convention of Delegates on the Indian Concern:

We have to report that with the retirement of Isaiah Lightner from the combined Santee, Flandreau and Ponca Agency, in Nebraska, our official connection with the U. S. Government in Indian work ceased.

We were not asked by those in authority at Washington to name his successor, or in any way have any further care of the Indians; consequently all that we have done for the Indians since that time has been purely missionary work.

We expressed an earnest desire to have Charles Hill appointed as successor to Agent Lightner, believing from many years experience as Superintendent at the Agency he was well qualified for the position, and although there was opposition to this measure by some politicans and others, he finally succeeded in obtaining the appointment.

When Charles first allowed his name to be presented for the office, he did so with the understanding that Friends would aid him what they could in the work, if he was appointed, consequently we have found that our visits to Washington during this session of Congress have been nearly as frequent as formerly.

Some designing white men got up a very ingenious petition and a few of the Santee Indians signed it, asking Congress to repeal the twenty-five year restriction clause in the law which gives them patents to their lands.

This petition was presented in the Senate by Senator Manderson, and referred to the Committee on Indian

Affairs. It gave us considerable trouble, and some anxiety, but we now think there is little prospect of its being acted upon by Congress. 136 of the Indians sent a very strong remonstrance against the proposed change in the law, which was about seven times as many as had petitioned for it.

One hundred and eighteen of the Santees have lately received patents for their lands and are much pleased with them.

Our correspondence with Agent Hill has been frequent and voluminous, and we feel confident that he is "the right man in the right place."

Peter Shango, an Indian who resides at the New York Agency, applied to us for the gift of a set of carpenter's tools, and promised to teach some of his brother Indians the trade if he could get tools. After corresponding with Agent Peacock and others in regard to his request, we felt willing to furnish him with a fair outfit, and accordingly sent him tools to the value of twenty-five dollars.

We have endeavored to procure some funds from the Indian Bureau at Washington to assist Sarah Winnemucca in her effort to establish a boarding school among her people (the Piutes) in Nevada, and we are encouraged to hope that our efforts may be successful.

There is a bill pending in Congress which provides for the sale of a portion of the Winnebago Reservation, and in case it shall become a law will do great injustice to that tribe of Indians. We have protested against its passage and also laid the matter before General Whittlesey, Secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, a true champion of Indians' rights, and he will exert himself to prevent the bill from becoming a law.

We have had several interviews with the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs and have found him to

be a very courteous official and deeply interested in the welfare of the Indians. Signed

CYRUS BLACKBURN,
JOSEPH J. JANNEY,
LEVI K. BROWN.

Charles Hill, a member of our Society, appointed to succeed Isaiah Lightner at the combined Santee, Flandreau and Ponca Agency in Nebraska, having requested Friends to visit the Agency, witness the workings thereof, also to visit the Indians at their homes on their allotments, advise them in the art of farming and encourage them in their laudable endeavors to improve their condition, was considered by the Convention. After a full and free expression of sentiment it was concluded to send two Friends to the Agency for that purpose. The Clerks were directed to send two discreet, suit able Friends to visit the Agency (in case Charles Hill's appointment is confirmed) and render such aid and encouragement to the Agent, as well as to the Indians, as they may feel right and proper, and make report of their labors to a future meeting of this body.

Some Friends continue to cherish a deep interest in the welfare of the Indians generally, and favor the establishment of an Industrial School for the education of the Indian children by our Society, but way did not seem to open for any action in the concern at this time.

Inasmuch as there appears to be so little work that Friends are engaged in at the present time, a proposition was submitted to dissolve our association, but after consideration and an interchange of sentiment, it was thought advisable to keep the organization intact, in case an opportunity should present for more extended labor in behalf of a people for whose welfare the Society have ever felt a deep interest.

Then adjourned to meet when considered expedient by the Clerk.

LEVI K. BROWN, *Clerk.*

A Trip to the West—The Friends and the Indians—Visit to the Indian Reservation.

The following letter is taken from the *Oxford Press* of 8th month, 25, 1886:—

Editors Press:—A month ago I left my home by appointment, to accompany a small delegation of Friends to the Indian Santee Agency, Nebraska. Of my trip thither I sketch a few notes that may not be uninteresting to others who may desire to "go West."

* * * * * * *

Next morning we procured a team and a courteous driver who seemed well versed in the prairie roads and after a ride of about 14 miles we entered the Indian Reservation on the head waters of the Bazile Creek. Soon reached a neat frame dwelling house, the residence of an Indian, which was an object of interest to my friend Janney, it being the first Indian residence he had ever beheld. Soon we reached the residences of a number more. The men, with scarce an exception, were engaged in cutting, binding and stacking their wheat and oats. The women as usual were very reticent. My friend having a desire to see how the women performed their household duties—whether they made their beds, or had beds; whether they kept their houses clean and tidy or otherwise, we alighted at the residence of John Jones, whose wife, as well as himself, could speak English, she having been educated at one of the schools at the Agency, and was quite intelligent. We were not invited into their house, but got a glimpse of the interior, which was supplied with a cooking stove, table, chairs, etc. Proceeding on we passed the residences of quite a number of Indians and reached the Agency buildings where we were cordially received by the Agent, Charles Hill, and his interesting family.

This Agency, the only remaining one under the care of our branch of Society, is now in charge of Charles

Hill as Agent, who succeeded Isaiah Lightner some months ago. Charles was for ten years or more, superintendent of farm operations at the Agency, is well acquainted with the Indian character, speaks their language and is successfully pursuing the peace policy inaugurated by his predecessors. The Indians on this reservation have all been allotted lands, each family 160 acres and each adult, male and female, 80. Nearly all have comfortable frame dwellings and from 30 to 50 acres under cultivation. Their farms and crops will compare favorably with their white neighbors' and in many instances surpass them. They are well supplied with agricultural implements—mowers, reapers, several binders and four threshers. All without exception are operated by the Indians.

Joseph Kitto, the Indian blacksmith at the Agency for years, is a superior workman and fully competent to repair all kinds of machinery. The Santees have been allotted 69,100 acres of land. The remainder of their reservation, about 44,770 acres, was restored to the public domain over one year ago, and on the 15th of 5th month, 1885, was opened to entry and settlement by white persons. So anxious were the whites to get possession it was shown that on the day named every acre suitable for farming was taken possession of—in some instances two persons claiming the same tract. An amusing incident occurred on one of the claims made. One individual had erected a small cabin on a choice tract, thinking no doubt that would secure him the land. The night previous to the opening day another individual hauled the cabin two or three miles distant and dropped it on another tract, then put in his claims for the former. A sharp skirmish ensued which had well nigh terminated in bloodshed, but was finally settled by the officials. As a rule the whites who have taken possession of these surplus lands are a good class of people and we trust they will prove a benefit to the Santees.

At the Agency we found all working together in harmony. We then visited at the large mission school at the Agency, for years past under the care of the American Missionary Association. Rev. Alfred L. Riggs, who nas been a life-long worker in behalf of the Indians, is the principal. During the year past the number of pupils averaged nearly 150. Too much praise can scarcely be accorded this excellent school and its worthy principal for the noble work they have done in educating the children and civilizing and Christianizing the Indians.

The day following, in company with the agent, we visited the Ponca Indians on the Niobrara river in Dakota. These Indians were removed by the Government in 1877 to the Indian Territory, but were much dissatisfied and under the lead of Standing Bear, one of their chiefs, about 170 returned to their old home. For years they were subjected to great hardships. Standing Bear was arrested and for a time was greatly annoyed. Through the intervention of Friends he was finally released, and he, with the remnant of the tribe, are now located on the north side of the Running Water or Niobrara river, on as beautiful a rolling prairie as is to be found in all the great West. Four years ago when we visited them, they were supplied by Government with provisions and were living in rather a deplorable condition. The women and children dressed in their Indian costume with painted faces, etc.; but few had houses to reside in worthy of the name. There were then no agency buildings. At this time, as we crossed the river on a substantial bridge erected by the Government, and entered on their lands, we found each family occupying a comfortable dwelling, erected at a suitable distance from each other, so as to allow each one when their lands are allotted, to have his present house and land. The contrast was wonderfully striking. On every farm the Indians were at work mowing or

reaping. As we passed through them for a distance of perhaps four miles, we came to the residence of Standing Bear. We found the old chief stripped of coat and vest, actively engaged in raking and forking hay, whilst his machine, driven by an Indian, was cutting down more. A brief interview with him by the agent, who desired a council with the tribe at the Agency buildings, and we returned there.

Here, a school building, dwelling, smith shop, carpenter shop, etc., etc., have been erected, and the agency and school are chiefly under the care of Rev. John E. Smith.

In the afternoon, quite a number of the principal farmers and leading men had gathered at the agency. Recently about twenty-two Poncas had returned from their home in the Indian Territory and were desirous to remain with their people here. Objection had been made and Agent Hill had interceded with the Department at Washington in their behalf. The result he wished to communicate to them. When all were seated Agent Hill informed them, through his interpreter, that the Department had consented that these Poncas now here might remain, but no more would be allowed to come. He also informed them of our visit. That we were of the Executive Committee who had charge of Indian interests at Washington, etc. To my inquiry of Standing Bear if he remembered my visit to them four years ago, he replied he did and as an evience of his friendship presented each of us with a photograph of his chiefship. After considerable conversation in regard to Indian affairs, pro and con, Standing Bear arose and after shaking hands with all the whites present (as is their custom), he proceeded to deliver a most eloquent speech. Thanking us for the interest we had manifested in their behalf, he proceeded in substance as follows:

"My heart is glad to see you this nice day. I am

glad you come so far to see us. You find me working hard. I do what the Great Father (the President of the United States) wants me to do; but after all the dry weather comes and my work is of no account, for the corn is a failure. The wheat crop is pretty good and the oats too, but we will not have any corn or potatoes. My Friends, I have just made a visit to the Indians up the river (alluding to those at Rose Bud and Pine Ridge Agencies), and they tell me something that makes me feel bad. I thought this land that we are living on was our land. I thought the land I am working hard on was my own. But these Indians tell me it is not; that they can come here and take possession and drive us away whenever they get ready. How is this? I don't understand it. I want to know whether this is my land certain or not. It ought to be marked out and every Indian ought to know just where his land is, so that our children will know when we are gone where their homes are. I want land for my children, too. I am afraid there will be none left for them. Another thing, my friends. Not long ago a white man tried to cross our reservation with a lot of cattle and behaved very badly, and beat one of our Indians. This is not right. We are satisfied with our lands and are willing to work them, and all we ask of the Great Father is to give us tools to work with, and that he will give us food when our crops fail. I want to live at peace with all the white people and with all the Indians everywhere, and am working hard to make a living; but there are some things that don't seem right to me and it makes me feel bad sometimes."

We endeavored to explain matters to him and assured him that the lands they occupied should be theirs forever, and that we would continue to look after their interests at Washington, so that no injustice should be done to the Indians, etc., when Standing Bear again arose and added:

"I am in earnest, my friends, about being so glad to see you here to-day. It makes my heart glad to know you come so far to see us and help us. I am glad to hear you are watching for us at Washington. There are many tongues here to-day, (alluding to other speakers, Bird Head and Jack Peniska), but I have a few more things I want to say to you. This stranger from up country (a half-breed Sioux Indian) that has come on our reservation and located 320 acres of land without our consent is not right. It troubles me much and I don't understand it. We hope you will help us, my friends. I thought we were settled here and that we would not be disturbed, but it looks sometimes like the white people were going to rush right upon us here and take possession. They all want to come, we know, but I hope somebody is helping us in this matter. It often troubles me much. * * * * The white people are skulking around on the outskirts of our reservation, pricking us like with a pitchfork to drive us away. I want you and all our friends in the East to know about these things, for they keep me uneasy and I feel bad."

It is not customary among the Indians for any but their chiefs to speak, but advancing civilization soon removes this restriction, and we were pleased to to see Jack Peniska, a plain farmer, arise and give his views, as follows:

"It makes my heart feel glad to see you, my white friends, come to visit us at our homes. I am a poor working man; that's the way I have to live, and it made me feel ashamed when I saw you passing by my house this morning that things didn't look better all around it. But it takes time to fix things up as they ought to be, and I have not had time yet. I have some things I want to say to you, my friends. There are a good many things that don't go right altogether and that I do not understand. We have a school house, but the children

don't go regularly. Some days there will be seven or eight, some days five or six, some days two or three and some days all will stay away, because they get hungry and tired and want to go home. We need a boarding-school so that the children will come to school and stay and learn and not be so irregular. We come here to church, sit and listen to the preacher, but we have not the right understanding, for we have no education and we go away and forget all about it. Now we want our children to be taught so they will understand these things better than we do. I don't want our Great Father to give us food. I want him to give us tools and teach us how to use them, so we can work for our living. The Good Father (the agent) has done this and he has been a great help to us. I don't wait for anything; I go to work for myself. Another thing I want to say to you, my friends. Indian half-breeds from another tribe have settled on our reservation without our permission and it aint right. They come just as if they had a better right than we have and I hear they are going to build a store and a ranch and put 200 head of cattle there. I don't understand how they can do this. Maybe you can help us, my friends. It seems to me it ain't right. I ask you, Father, (speaking to the agent) about that? How is it? And I will ask you to help us about the boarding school. We need that very much. Indians now are all at work; they don't think of anything else. I don't know how it was in old times but now all the Indians work willingly. Amongst ourselves it is thought I have no right to speak in a council like this; but amongst white men like you a poor working man has a right to speak, and I feel glad to say these things to you."

Jack is a live Indian, a young man who has a fine start and will, if spared, make his mark in the world. Bird Head, another of the former chiefs, spoke briefly but I will not trespass further on your limits. We

found a wonderful change in the condition of these people since our visit there four years ago, and if they continue to progress as they have been thus far in a very few years they will be able to take care of themselves. At a late hour we returned to the Santee Agency, well pleased with our visit to the Poncas and trust our visit was some encouragement to them.

Next day we made an early start and visited many of the Indians at their homes, to describe which would be superflous. Suffice it to say, they live quite as well and appear as comfortable in their present homes as their white neighbors. A stranger riding through the reservation would scarcely discover he was surrounded by Indians.

During the afternoon we arrived at the residence of Daniel Graham, a well to-do Indian, who brought us in his new carriage to Creighton. From Creighton we proceeded to Genoa and visited a large school for Indian children, an account of which I may give you hereafter. LEVI K. BROWN.

Goshen, 8th mo. 20th, 1886.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE LABOR.

It is with pleasure that the Committee reports that at the annual session of New York Yearly Meeting, in Fifth month of this year, that meeting appointed a large standing Committee, to which all philanthropic work within its limits has been referred and authority given to form sub-committees from its membership on the various topics or lines of work that may result. The General Committee has also been authorized to unite with like bodies from other Yearly Meetings in such labor as can be accomplished by co-operation. It is suggested for the consideration of the Yearly Meeting that it appoint a similar committee large in numbers,

well distributed as to residence and fully representing the general membership, to which *all* labor in the direction of philanthropic interest outside our membership could be confined, with permission to sub-divide into smaller committees on the various subjects claiming its care, and more nearly in accordance with the individual wishes and gratifications of the members, as to special fields of labor. If this should meet the approval of the Yearly Meeting, it would be wise to appoint the General Committee without reference to the presence at the time, of the persons named, as many earnest and gratified members may be necessarily absent from the Yearly Meeting at the time the appointments are made.

Some action of this kind seems almost necessary, not only for the increased efficiency expected, but to define more satisfactorily our membership and privileges in the gatherings of Friend's Union for Philanthropic Labor, where these committees meet for consultation and joint action. The next meeting of the Union is called for the 2nd and 3rd of 11th mo. next, in Philadelphia, in connection with the meeting of the General Conference of First-day Schools.

On behalf of the committee.

ELIZABETH H. COALE, *Clerk.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

The committee to settle with the Treasurer, find his accounts, as per accompanying report, correct. That $250.00 should be raised for Yearly Meeting fund the ensuing year. We recommend Amos B. Wilson for Treasurer.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

1885, 9-mo. 16	Balance, - - -		$434 85
1886, 9-mo. 13	Balance Prairie Grove's quota, 1885, - - - -		10 00
1886, 9-mo. 13	Blue River's quota, -		137 50
1886, 9-mo. 13	Prairie Grove's quota, -		112 50
			$694 85

Paid to—

Publishing Committee, -	$145 63	
Committee on Indian Affairs, -	18 10	
Committee on Temperance Work,	59 10	
Committee on Prison Affairs, -	23 00	
Librarian, - - - -		
Yearly Meetings Trustees, -	22 75	
Drafts and Orders, - -	40	$268 98
To balance in Treasury, - - -		$425 87

A. B. WILSON, *Treasurer.*

Signed on behalf of the committee,

JOHN B. NEWBURY, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ISOLATED FRIENDS AND LITERATURE.

We, the committee to which was intrusted the interests in Isolated Members, have appointed nine meetings, visited twenty families, in several of which family sittings were had.

Sent out at various times to several localities, leaflets of doctrinal and other character. Have corresponded with many Friends coming under our care with good results.

There have been sent from Chicago:—

194 copies Scattered Seeds.
108 " Intelligencer and Journal.
25 " Janney's Summary Christian's Doctrine.
5 " " Vital Religion.
5 " John J. Cornell's Essays.
10 " William Penn's letters to wife and children.
115 " Children's Sabbath School Papers.
50 " Educational Magazines.

Also forwarded to be distributed among Western and Southern Prisons:—

7,000 copies Intelligencer and Journal and other Religious papers and magazines.

We recommend further care by the meeting on behalf of committee. ABEL MILLS.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRISON AFFAIRS.

The committee on Prison Affairs submits the following report, as showing what work has been done in a committee capacity under appointment by this meeting; also, individual work in the same line, in connection with another association.

At the close of our last Yearly Meeting, the committee delegated one of its members to visit Detroit and attend the meeting held there to consider the subject of Prison Reform and Discipline, which was done. He reports the Conference a very interesting one and full of valuable suggestions for State Prison work, but they did not seem to be in a line that we could adopt in county work. All pointed, however, to the fact that prisoners of every grade and in all places should be treated in such a manner as to conduce to their restoration.

Reformatory rather than condemnatory; while firmness is necessary and strict discipline must be enforced,

kindness need not, and is not, precluded; and it was the uniform testimony of the officials that such a course was productive of more good than the opposite. Some of our members have not been entirely unmindful of the needs of these unfortunates in the way of suitable reading matter to employ their leisure hours, and have collected and received some literature for that purpose, but not sufficient to forward to the Prison missionary to whom we sent the year before, and also exerted themselves to interest others not in our Society to work in the same direction, to save and forward their papers, magazines and books, that were suitable, and received the assurance that they would do so.

Our members residing in Chicago report that they have been as active in the interests confided to our committee as our circumstances would permit. No particular duty appears to have risen for work as a committee, other than will be reported by its chairman, we presume, but in connection with our official positions in the Illinois Prisoner's Aid Association and through personal communication with released prisoners, we have found ample reason for satisfaction, that public interest has been enlisted as fully as it has in our Society and elsewhere, in this line of philanthropic work.

Individually, we have been able to reach beneficially, we think, many otherwise friendless persons, who were desirous or willing to return to honest lives and labor, and have often been cheered with the apparent success attending the thus aided efforts to get back into the current of honest life. We think a per cent perhaps equal to thirty-five or forty of those coming under the care or oversight of the Aid Association do not return to criminal life.

As indicated in our report last year in 10th month last, a home for the aid and temporary shelter of released prisoners, was opened in this city under the auspices of the State Aid Association, and the manage-

ment of Michael Dunn, who had had large experience in the management of similar homes in New York City and San Quentin (near San Francisco), California. This "Home of Industry," as it is called, has done good work, worth all its cost, averaging from ten to seventeen inmates, constantly coming in and going out, as work has been found for them; while in the home, all are kept busy mainly in brush and broom making, while the influence brought to bear upon them through personal association of the manager and his family and visitors from the Association membership, is of such friendly and Christian character that it must influence largely their character and purposes.

About the middle of 8th month of this year, owing to the difficulty of securing a sufficiency of funds for the support of the Home, and under representation to the Agent, that some non-contributors would add to the funds, if the home was under independent auspices, our State Association placed it with furniture and machinery in the hands of Michael Dunn, releasing him from further obligation as its Agent. The work is going on under the changed conditions with the same line of policy and with the interest and good will of its friends in the State Aid Association.

While the "Home of Industry" is accomplishing a needed and good work, it does not cover the most important need as regards this line of the Association's purpose. There should be a general agent of good qualifications, to visit our State prisons regularly, form the personal acquaintance of prisoners whose terms are soon to expire, learn of their history, home, conditions, and capacities for self-support, and thus prepare himself for judicious aid and counsel at the time of their release. This agent should also visit various portions of the State, looking for suitable work for the released convicts, to which they can be transferred directly from the prison, without passing through the Home or any

intervening, and often adverse, influences. Such an agent could also interest various communities and persons throughout the State in his work so as to induce pecuniary and other aid, and stimulate increased and widely spread interest in such portions of our work as are preventive in their character, this being the ultimate aim of our efforts and the true theory of all remedial or reformatory work in the philanthropic field. To secure such aid it will be necessary to have reliable annual subscriptions sufficient to pay a good salary and all incidental expenses, or secure legislative authority for the appointment of an agent and the payment with State funds of the necessary salary and expenses. The latter being preferable if it can be secured under conditions that will preserve the agent and the work from partisan political influences.

In our city two police stations have been provided with matrons, in addition to the three heretofore reported, now giving us five stations and ten matrons for the care of women under criminal charges. Every woman arrested must under our ordinances, be taken to one or the other of these five stations and come under the matron's care. This reform, at first, either opposed or ridiculed by most of the police department, is now popular with those in charge of these stations, and their superiors in official rank, and not likely to be overthrown by any political changes in the city government, at least as long as the work maintains its non-partisan character. The magnitude of the work for the matrons may be judged to some extent by the statement that eight thousand nine hundred and thirty-two (8,932) arrests of women were made during the year ending 3rd month, 1st, 1886, not however representing nearly so many women, as some would be arrested a number of times during the year, especially from among those leading unchaste lives or being habitual drunkards.

Our county jail has three departments, one for men,

one for women and one for youths, that for women being under the care of matrons.

Much effort is made by missionaries and perhaps by special churches, to give the prisoners instruction and religious services on the First-day of the week, and to give the boys an intellectual education, but we, as members of our Society have not been so far able to undertake any labor within the jail. The constant changing of inmates, the confirmed criminal character of many of them, and the difficulty of reaching them individually and free from the hearing and influence of other prisoners prevents much apparently effective work by any person or organization.

On behalf of the Committee.

ELIZABETH H. COALE,
Clerk of the Committee.
JONA. W. PLUMMER,
Member of the Yearly Meeting Committee on Prison Affairs.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SOCIETY DEFICIENCIES.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, to Convene 9th Month, 13th, 1886, at Clear Creek, Putnam Co., Illinois.

DEAR FRIENDS: At a meeting of a few of the members of your committee on Society Deficiencies at the time of holding the Blue River Quarterly Meeting of Friends in the 11th mo., 1885, at Clear Creek, Ills., it was suggested to formulate a list of queries out of the expressions concerning decline, from each member of the committee, which was united with resulting in the following queries with questions thereto:

1st Question.—Have we not been derelict in not living up to our highest ideas of right and duty?

Ans. to 1st.—We believe most Friends have been very neglectful in living up to their highest conception of right and duty—hence, a cause for the decline and an occasion for this investigation.

2nd Q.—Have we not been worshipping the Society instead of the living God, and looking unto forms and ceremonies rather than obeying the still small voice?

Ans. to 2nd.—We have discovered that there are too many inclined to want to adopt and be satisfied with a formal worship instead of silently waiting and breathing life direct from the Spirit of God. Others think we surely have erred in not thinking enough of society to bind us together.

3rd Q.—Has there not been too great an unwillingness to be used by our Master?

Ans. to 3rd.—We think there has been too great an unwillingness with many to do their Master's bidding, but prefer to do what gratifies their own inclinations or personal desires, hence, have come short of the efficacy of divine guidance.

4th Q.—Have we not been too little aggressive to cause the society to grow?

Ans. to 4th.—It is apparent that an aggressive interest in some localities is increasing the membership, and that the greater this interest becomes, the greater is the growth.

5th Q.—Have we not been too much afraid of using means that other societies have adopted, because of such adoption?

Ans. to 5th.—Not because other organizations use those methods of work, but because Friends never did, and it would be an innovation on established usage and order. Those who are Friends as designated by the Master, apply to the light of His spirit as the alone means, without reference to other societies. It being their

guide in all things, the source of help and spiritual growth.

6th Q.—Has there not been a lack in disseminating the principles of our society "as they are now understood" by means of our religious papers?

Ans to 6th.—We think that if the original doctrines, practices and principles of the Society of Friends were understood better and could have been disseminated more thoroughly through our religious papers, we, as a people in this age, would be better understood and bound nearer together in fellowship.

7th Q.—Have we not been too conservative and have not given energetic, interested members, the opportunities to labor in a church capacity for the good of mankind that other religious organizations have done?

Ans. to 7th.—There is an affirmative answer to the charges in this query, except in one locality, encouragement has been given, and quite an interest been manifested to use the younger members in our business meetings, and encouraged to follow the light in all reformatory work. Yet there are a few who have the evidence that where the guiding Spirit of the Father prevailed over our assemblies, His voice, when uttered, was recognized and the needed strength and encouragement was received.

8th Q.—Has it not been a cause of retrogression that our younger members, when showing a little more zeal than their older brothers and sisters have thought best, have been checked by them?

Ans. to 8th.—We do not find any cause for holding those Friends who are clothed with authority for right religious labor, responsible for unduly checking the young Spiritual Cross-bearing laborer. Yet, were this the case, it doubtless would tend to spiritual retrogression.

9th Q.—Have we not been living too much on what

our worthy predecessors have done, not putting forth our own energies and seizing the opportunities that are offered us, to make our religious views and convictions known and felt around us?

Ans. to 9th.—Quite a number of the committee send an affirmative response to the several requisitions of this query. Others thereof wish to affirm that there does not seem apparent, enough inclinations among the various classes of our members to follow in the footsteps of our worthy predecessors.

10th Q.—Have we not lacked definite instruction in our doctrines and principles and testimonies?

Ans. to 10th.—This lack is one of the greatest causes of our weakness, the want of that inward experience with the Christ of God that alone established our doctrines, practices and principles, and gave that strength of endurance to the support of the testimony thereof without which they are reckoned as dead forms.

11th Q.—Have not concerned Friends been lacking in not devoting some portion of our meeting hours to giving such instruction?

Ans. to 11th.—While a few answer in the affirmative; others feel that as professed followers of Jesus Christ, Friends do not feel a liberty to devote such time to such instruction, but when assembled for divine worship to watch one hour with God, and become prepared for the quickening by his Spirit, then, whatever public service is required, "obey and thou shalt live." Otherwise, it would be undervaluing the true dignity of worship.

12th Q.—Have we not adhered too much to the old tradition of silent meetings?

Ans. to 12th.—The affirmative hereof of which there are several, say that we have too much adhered to the old tradition of silent meetings. But those differing therefrom do not call this a tradition, to be still and know

that the Lord is God, and listen to the still small voice, thereby becoming living members of the Church Militant.

13th Q.—Have we not been too careless in observing proper decorum in and about our places of worship?

Ans. to 13th.—We think a more guarded care over our words and actions when assembled for divine worship, would better comport with the dignity of our holy religion.

14th Q.—Have we not adhered too strictly to the forms of speech and religious worship, adopted by our fathers, as if they were essential to the existence or welfare of the body?

Ans. to 14th.—Some of the committee send affirmative replies to this query; others express the opinion that we have not adhered strictly enough to the language adopted by our fathers, and have too much forsaken the worship which is spiritual, and the form accepted in the rise of our Society; while all agree that living up to the high standard of our testimonies will result in a pure life.

15th Q.—Have we not had too much form in our meetings for worship and too little in our business meetings?

Ans. to 15th.—Our investigations find mostly negative answers to this query; that in our form of worship there is nothing to prevent any from doing their whole duty; our form only enjoins silence until the Master calls for service. We doubt not there is too little of this in our business meetings.

16th Q.—Have we not too much so arranged our temporal affairs that we neglect our spiritual concerns, and consequently our meetings, more or less?

Ans. to 16th.—We believe we have, and by so doing practically say that we deem our spiritual concerns

secondary to our temporal, and present to our children and to the world, an example of inconsistency.

In compiling this report, we have had in view, the necessity of setting forth as clear and comprehensive a condition of our religious Society, as near as we have been able to gather it, from the "query and answer" medium, with indivivual observation during the past year, through other mediums, with a desire that each one of us may be enabled to discern through the source of wisdom, what is enfeebling and discouraging us, and what prevents us from being as a city set upon a hill, that our life may be a power in the world, drawing others to our fold. We find a want of growth in the Divine life, and lack of religious experience as a result, being evidenced by an inclination to undervalue some of our very important testimonies, and the increasing interest in attending places of amusements, the tendency of which is to create a distaste for those things which tend to strengthen and build up the religious character.

Going out after the allurements of the world, little by little it may be, we find at last, our strength is gone; if we can then remember, that in our Father's house is bread and to spare, let us not repel the good resolve to return. We feel to caution against a dependence on any system of study of the Holy Scripture growing out of a desire for, and dependence on, a mere intellectual knowledge; for however valuable this knowledge may be for the right exercise of the mental faculties, they have no power alone to transform the heart, or prepare for any right religious work.

A condition has been observed in which some may have been operated on through their emotional natures, to undertake work for which they had not really felt the preparing hand of God, thus our testimonies to the necessity of a spiritual qualification for an exercise, is

set at naught; herein it is that we may so easily err, by measuring the degree of spiritual life in ourselves and others, by their activity in those works of a professedly religious nature.

Again, there has been made manifest through this "query and answer" medium, a disposition with some, to regard our testimony for silent worship as a tradition, and looking upon our accepted peculiarities as a people, as "dead forms," others say, if from any cause these have not been maintained in the last century, it is that we have not been able to keep pace with the truth.

We see another condition which we desire to speak of tenderly, that of the unfaithfulness of parents in the discharge of duty in the home circle. We labor assiduously to prepare food and raiment to sustain and protect the body, and this too often at the sacrifice of the inner and spiritual culture; forgetting, or putting aside our precept and example for good, much to our religious detriment. This, we are forced to believe, has been the beginning of a lukewarmness, which we have found by investigation is now bearing fruit and is one great cause of our decline.

In summing up the whole category of deficiencies, we find one common origin, which is, a failure to obey what the light has made manifest and as a consequence, a state of ease and indifference prevails everywhere, and hence the weakness apparent amongst us. A mere acceptance of the doctrine of the "Inner Light," unless we live out its teachings, can avail us nothing, and when through over zeal, or whatever cause, we go beyond its requirements, a loss is sustained and no real good is effected, or imparted to those unto whom we profess to minister. Again we assert our desire that this state of apathy may be overcome, stir up the pure mind, awaken its sensibilities to seek a higher life, and enter that field of labor already white unto harvest, that all may enter into the fruition of the joys of Heaven.

As a remedy we firmly believe if we are careful to attend to the pointings of Truth, and it is our meat and our drink to do the Heavenly Father's will, that we will be instrumental in arousing the slumbering immortal soul, that there will be an awakening to new life and power, beyond any thing that we have known for many years; we believe we have not sufficiently submitted to the refining power of Truth as to give God full possession of our powers; there is something reserved, something withheld from the fire. When all is yielded up and He becomes all in all, then does He give power to stir the hearts of men. Then and not till then, shall we be permitted to put on the beautiful robes of righteousness. Glory, honor, dominion and praise, will, with a full and overflowing heart, be ascribed to Him.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

ELIZABETH H. COALE,
Clerk pro tem.

REPORT OF "COMMITTEE ON PEACE AS OPPOSED TO MILITARY TRAINING."

Before we separated at the session of Illinois Yearly Meeting, held last year, this committee held a meeting in which it appointed as its chairman or clerk, Allen J. Flitcraft. In considering the method of work to be done, the only plan that seemed practicable was, that we should prepare one or more articles for publication in the newspapers in the different neighborhoods of the several members of the committee. In accord with this idea a paper was prepared entitled, "Peace vs. War," which was forwarded to the members of the committee with the following form of letter:

DEAR FRIEND: At a meeting of the "Committee on Peace as opposed to Military Training," held at the time of our last Yearly Meeting, it was decided that we

prepare an article for publication in such newspapers as could be found willing to publish it without charge in the different localities of the several members of this committee. Enclosed please find a paper for such use, if it meets the approval of —— and thyself, both of you being members of the committee in your locality; should it meet with your approval and be published, please send me a copy of the paper in which it appears so that I may keep a complete record of our work. If this method shall prove satisfactory to the members of the committee another article will be prepared to be used in a similar manner on the question of "Practicability of International Arbitration." Please write me fully thy views as to the best methods for fulfilling the mission of our committee.

Very truly thine,

ALLEN J. FLITCRAFT,
Clerk of Committee.

[Herewith find a copy of article sent out with the above letter.] Letters were received from the members of the committee to whom it was sent; with the exception of one neighborhood where two members of the committee resided, all expressed full unity with the paper referred to and it was accordingly published in the following papers:

State Centre Enterprise, 5th mo., 13th, 1886, State Centre, Iowa; *Evening Gazette*, Sterling, Ill., 3rd mo., 12th, 1886; *The Bloomington Daily Pantagraph*, Bloomington, Ill., 4th mo., 5th, 1886; *The Wapsic Index*, West Liberty, Iowa, 3rd mo., 19th, 1886; *The Weekly Times Republican*, Marshalltown, Iowa, 3rd mo., 25th, 1886; *Chanute Times*, Chanute, Kan., 4th mo., 1st, 1886; *The Salem Leader*, Salem, Ind., 4th mo., 3rd, 1886; *The Putnam Record*, Hennepin, Putnam Co., Ill., 3rd mo., 25th, 1886.

Owing to the illness of the member of the committee who intended to prepare the second paper, only this one

has been published by the committee. An individual member of the committee had published in the *Hoopeston Journal* a paper entitled, "Causes of War," and other members of the committee reported that clippings had been published in different papers through their influence.

We recommend the appointment of a committee to have charge of this subject.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

ALLEN J. FLITCRAFT, *Clerk.*

PEACE VS. WAR.

In this time of war reminiscences, when the press all over our nation contains so much to revive the so-called bravery of our great generals and commanders in the late civil war, is it not well for us to consider the question whether all this military glory, accompanied with the vast destruction of life, property and happiness, could have been averted or the causes that led to this sanguinary strife been deliberately considered so that the misunderstanding between the government and the disaffected states could have been adjusted amicably? Now that over twenty years have elapsed, when we can calmly read the history of this terrible struggle in which not less than one million human beings perished or were permanently disabled, and in which about six hundred million dollars of money was absorbed, let us consider the question as a Christian nation and people, whether we in this day are doing what we ought to foster that spirit which teaches us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Doubtless all truly great men sincerely desire that peace shall reign throughout the world of mankind.

Washington once said, "How much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements in the earth than all the vain-glory which can be acquired by managing it by the most uninterrupted of

conquests. For the sake of humanity it is devoutly to be wished that the manly employments of agriculture and the harmonizing effects of commerce should supersede the waste of war and the ravages of conquest, that swords may be turned into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks, as the scriptures express it, and the nation learn war no more." General Grant, after his voyage around the world, said, in response to an address presented to him by the "Pennsylvania Peace Society," "Though I have been trained as a soldier and have participated in many battles, there never was a time when, in my opinion, some way could not have been found of preventing the drawing of the sword. I look forward to an epoch when a court, recognized by all nations, will settle international differences instead of keeping large standing armies, as they do in Europe."

Henry Richard, M. P., in a paper read by him at the conferences of the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations, at Cologne, 8th mo., 19, 1881, said on the Question of Right, "The questions that arise between nations are always, at least professedly, questions of contested right. When Lord John Russell, for instance, in 1854, delivered a speech in the House of Commons, which was virtually a declaration of war against Russia, he ended amid the enthusiastic plaudits of his audience, with the exclamation: 'And may God defend the right!' "

The Emperor of Russia, when he accepted England's challenge, made a still more solemn appeal to Heaven for the rightfulness of his cause. And this is the case in every war. Each party loudly asseverate that it is drawing the sword only in defence of the right. But how are questions of right to be decided? Is it by an appeal to the appliances of brute force or to reason and justice? If in civil society you want to determine which of the two contending parties is right, how do you set to work? Do you try to discover which is heaviest

physicially, which is the strongest or the most vigorous and adroit in the use of material weapons? No, but you enquire into fact, you collect and collate evidence, you compare moral probabilities. But how do the implements and exercises of war help you in such a process? A bayonet has no aptitude for the discovery of truth; gunpowder has no quality of moral discrimination; a Krupp gun or a torpedo has no particular relation to righteousness.

All that these can do, if you use them to the day of doom, is to decide, not what is right, but who is the strongest, the most skillful, the most wealthy, the most pertinacious. A more conclusive proof of the utter impotence of war to settle questions of right cannot be imagined than is afforded by the fact that it never does settle anything. For after the nations have been fighting for five, ten or fifteen years, after they have lavished their blood and treasure in conflict, after they have carried anguish and desolation into myriads of homes, after they have envenomed each other's hearts by hateful and malignant passion, they always end by meeting in council, to consult and argue, and, by mutual concessions and compromises, to make a treaty of peace. And all we ask is, whether it would not be wiser, more consonant with reason and common sense, as well as with justice, religion and humanity, to begin where they are always obliged to end, by meeting in council and making concessions and compromises before they have filled the world with the havoc and horrors of war?

On behalf of committee appointed by Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends held in 9th mo., 1885.

ALLEN J. FLITCRAFT.

Chicago, March 2, 1885. *Clerk of Committee.*

Report of Dining-Hall Committee.

The Committee on Dining-hall Arrangement for the accomodation of the Yearly Meeting, report care, as directed, and that the amount of indebtedness, $58.10, as reported last year, has been subscribed and the debt cancelled.

The improvements recommended in our report of last year have not been made on account of lack of funds.

Amos B. Wilson, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee under Minute No. 53 to Nominate a Committee on Co-operative Labor.

The committee suggests to the meeting that the time for them to report be deferred till the opening session next year.

If the meeting adopts our recommendation we would offer the following names as an addition to the present Co-operative Committee to have charge of the work until the appointments next year.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

B. F. Nichols.

Abel Mills, Mt. Palatine, Putnam Co., Ill.
Mary Ann Bedell, Holder, McLean Co., Ill.
Thos. H. Trueblood, Hitchcock, Washington Co., Ind.
Jas. S. Brooks, Salem, Indiana.
Jas. W. Heacock, Canton, Ind.
Joseph Hartley, Centredale, Cedar Co., Iowa.
Nathan Wilson, Sterling, Ill.
Thomas W. Woodnut, 2213 Michigan Av., Chicago.
Edward T. Price, Olds, Henry Co., Iowa.
Caroline Lukens, Hoopeston, Ill.

Lauretta H. Nichols, State Centre, Iowa.
Isaiah Lightner, Genoa, Nebraska.
[See committee list in back of book for names of the full committee on co-operative labor.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED UNDER MINUTE No. 28. (SCIENTIFIC INSTRUCTION BILL.)

To the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends now in Session:—

DEAR FRIENDS:—The committee to whom was referred the subject of Memoralizing the Legislature of Illinois, would respectfully report the following:

Signed on behalf of the committee.

JOSHUA L. MILLS.

To the Thirty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Illinois:

GREETING:—Your memorialists, consisting of the members of the Religious Society of Friends of Illinois, in annual assemby, convened, do most earnestly and respectfully memoralize your respective bodies, that you do pass a Bill, that scientific temperance instruction on the effects of alcohol and narcotics on the human system shall be taught in the public schools throughout the State of Illinois.

Signed in and on behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Clear Creek, Putnam Co., Ill., 15th of 9th mo., 1886. [See Minute No. 54.]

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF BLUE RIVER MONTHLY MEETING.

To Blue River Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held 27th of 2nd Month, 1886:—

The committee appointed at our last meeting to con-

sider the suggestions in the last paragraph of the reports from Central Executive Meeting of Chicago report, that while the committee favorably considered the suggestions, yet there seemed to be no way opened whereby Friends could enter into such systematic labor.

The subject referred to in the foregoing as coming from Chicago Central Executive Meeting of Friends, was in substance:—

"Should we not take active measures to send or assist in sending ministers and other concerned Friends throughout the States of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, etc., in order that Friends situated in those neighborhoods may be encouraged and stimulated in their religious zeal to the establishment of meetings, where they are not already established, and to encourage those who have established meetings to renewed strength and usefullness."

"Our Friends, who during the past year visited this section of the country, report that in their judgment the time is very opportune for the drawing of many persons to our fold; they seem to be hungering and thirsting after the truth in its simplicity, as professed by the Society of Friends."

This subject is directed to be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting for its consideration and judgment.

By direction of Blue River Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held 2nd mo., 27, 1886.

(Signed) OLIVER WILSON,
Clerk for the day.

RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SOCIETY DEFICIENCIES.

"Your committee would suggest to the Yearly Meeting the consideration of the appointment of a com-

mittee to visit our meetings and members as way opens, for our encouragement and Spiritual advancement."

Signed on behalf of committee.

ELIZABETH H. COALE,
Clerk pro tem.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE UNDER MINUTES No. 49, 52 AND 57, COMMITTEE TO VISIT MEETINGS AND FRIENDS THROUGHOUT OUR YEARLY MEETING LIMITS.

We nominate the following Friends to labor amongst our meetings and members, as way opens:

Edward Coale,	Allen J. Flitcraft,
Thomas E. Hogue,	Abel Mills,
David Wilson,	Griffith E. Coale,
Sarah Ann Coale,	Benjamin F. Nichols,
Thos. H. Trueblood,	Phœbe Russell,

* Lauretta H. Nichols.

Signed on behalf of the committee,

BENJ. COALE.

* By her request she was excused from serving on the committee.

MINUTE OF EXERCISES.

On First-day, immediately preceding business sessions, a large concourse of people (Friends and others) assembled for Divine Worship both forenoon and afternoon. We believe many Spiritually hungry souls who had come from distant homes to unite in partaking of such fresh manna as their Heavenly Father might see fit to bless them with, were not disappointed, for, upon each occasion, after a time of solemn silence, vocal expression was feelingly given to gospel messages of love from the pure source thereof—even from Him who

long since promised to be with and bless those who assembled in His name.

On Second-day morning, during a season of silent waiting and we trust of individual aspirations for sweet communion of Spirit with the great head of the one true church, vocal supplication was offered asking for needed wisdom and ability to enable us to rightly perform the important business which is again likely to come before us.

The usual kind of preliminary business was then transacted in much harmony, and the visiting Friends from other Yearly Meetings—one of whom was a minister whose minute was read—were all welcomed amongst us, and invited to participate in the labors of the several sessions, feeling at home in our midst.

In the afternoon of the same day our hearts were cheered and we felt truly edified by the reading of the lively Epistles from the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond. The excellent advice contained in them was cordially received, and the documents bore evidence of true love and brotherly oneness of spirit on the part of those who sent them.

On the following day the answers of the queries afforded some encouraging indications that we are neither retrograding nor standing in idleness; but there is some growth and live progress being manifested within our borders. The replies to the first query especially attracted the serious consideration of the meeting, and much earnest, pertinent counsel was given in reference thereto. It was suggested that parents should regard it as a special duty to not only *take* their children with them to our meetings, but should kindly explain to them *why* they thus take them there. They do not always know and appreciate what is best for them. They are *sent*—willing or not—to School; then, why not lovingly take them with us to meeting. A Friend attributed the fault of non-attendance of

meetings by children and youths mainly to the neglect of their parents. Friends were urged to more faithfulness in this vital matter.

During the consideration of the fourth query, earnest desires were expressed that the use of all intoxicating beverages and tobacco might soon be entirely obliterated from our religious society.

Much concern was manifested in regard to the proper school education; the First-day School instruction and the home training of our children as being necessary for the perpetuation and real progress of our organization. In our Fourth-day morning meeting for worship, some impressive testimonies to the truth were uttered, as we believe, under Divine sanction and tending to our edification.

In the joint sessions much valuable information and encouraging sentiments were expressed in the Reports of the several joint committees on Temperance, Prison Reform, Isolated Friends, Military Displays, Indian Affairs and most especially so in that on the subject of our Deficiencies. In the last named report the answers to the sixteen queries upon the subject, caused a deep exercise to be spread over the meeting, which, it is hoped, will result in earnest heart-searching for the causes of such deficiencies and the forming of individual resolves to prayerfully endeavor to apply the needed remedies.

Signed on behalf of the committee by

WILMER WALTON.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE UNDER MINUTES NO. 7 AND 29.—(REIMBURSING FOR SPECIAL WORK.)

We do not feel that it would be right for us at this time to reimburse any of our members for special work, but we recommend that the same person shall not be

appointed on the committee for revising and printing the minutes, nor for recorder, more than one year in succession; also, that the printing of the minutes be distributed to the different neighborhoods within our limits, so that all may share in the duties and labors.

On behalf of committee.

S. P. Wilson.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

	Prairie Grove Qrtly. Mtg.					Blue River Quarterly Meeting.								
	Marietta Monthly Meeting.	Prairie Grove Monthly Meeting.	Genoa Monthly Meeting.	Wapsinonoc Monthly Meeting.	Total Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting.	Clear Creek Monthly Meeting.	Blue River Monthly Meeting.	Benjaminville Monthly Meeting.	Richland Monthly Meeting.	East Jordan Executive Meeting.	Central Executive Meeting of Chicago.	Blue River Executive Meeting.	Total Blue River Quarterly Meeting.	Total Belonging to Illinois Yearly Meeting.
No. of Families	22	18	10	24	74	46	16	34	5	7	13	4	125	199
" Parts of Families	10	24	9	37	80	58	18	32	4	5	18	10	145	225
" Members	150	114	48	150	462	199	95	165	30	40	70	27	626	1088
" Non-Resid'nt Mbrs	50	31	32	51	166	117	12	80	2	11	15	.....	237	403
" Minors	*35	42	17	33	127	31	32	20	14	10	12	5	124	251
Usual attendance at meeting on First-days	28	39	8	†25 ‡15	115	40	75	45	26	23	32	15	256	371
Usual attend'nce week days	§10	‖	‡‡	††		8	6	6	20	.....	‡‡	.....	40	50
Additions to Membership.														
Births	1	12	2	2	17	2	1	.....	1	....	2	.....	6	23
Requests	.....	3	.....	.....	3	.....	5	....	1	.....	2	.....	8	11
Certificates	1	.....	.....	1	2	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	6	8
TOTAL ADDITIONS	2	15	2	3	22	6	6	.....	2	.....	6	.....	20	42
Losses in Membership.														
From Deaths	.....	4	.....	7	11	2	3	.....	2	1	2	.....	10	21
" Disownment	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3
" Resignation	.....	3	.....	1	4	....	.....	.....	....	1	1	....	2	6
" Removals	....	14	.....	2	16	.....	.....	3	....	.....	4	.....	7	23
TOTAL LOSSES	.....	21	.....	11	32	4	3	3	2	2	7	.....	21	53
NET ADDITIONS	2	....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
NET LOSSES	.....	7	.....	8	10	.....	3	3	.....	2	1	.....	1	11

* Resident. † Highland. ‡ West Liberty. § Monthly meeting. ‖ Mid-week meeting discontinued. ‡‡ No meeting.
†† No meeting except for discipline.

ILLINOIS

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

PROCEEDINGS OF WOMEN'S DIVISION.

1.–Illinois Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held at Clear Creek, Putnam County, Illinois, by adjournment from the 13th of Ninth-month to 16th of the same. The Assistant Clerk being absent, Elizabeth Mills was appointed for the day.

2.—Reports from our Quarterly Meetings inform us that from PRAIRIE GROVE, Josephine Welch, Lauretta H. Nichols, Ann Eliza Harrison and Ann Hoge, and from BLUE RIVER, Mary G. Smith, Julia A. Brown, Lydia A. Wilson, Caroline Lukens and Eleanor Coale were appointed to attend as representatives to this meeting, who, being called, all were present except one, for whose absence a satisfactory reason was assigned.

3.—To take charge of the Minutes from the Clerk's table and prepare them for publication and report next year, we appoint Ann Eliza Harrison and Lydia A. Wilson.

4.—Isaac Hicks, a minister from Westberry Monthly Meeting, held at Matinicock, Long Island, Eighth-month, 18th, 1886, acceptably in attendance with us, produced a minute of unity with his meeting, signed by the clerk thereof. Friends from other Yearly Meetings

without minutes are present with us, and we feel that their company is encouraging.

5.—Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, except Genesee, are received, and were replete with words of love, caution and encouragement, and we trust we will be benefited by them. To essay replies to these, also one for Genesee, and to gather the exercises of the Meeting, we appoint Sarah P. Wilson, Ann Welch, Mary G. Smith, Lauretta H. Nichols, Josephine I. Welch, Julia A. Scranton, Julia A. Brown, Lydia A. Wilson, Elmira Averill, Ann Eliza Mead, Ann Hogue, Mary E. Coale and Eleanor Coale, who are to report to our Fifth-day morning session.

6.—The meeting being dipped into a feeling of deprivation on account of the absence of many of our earnest co-workers, we desire to express a sense of our loss, also of the absence of any ministering Friends, either of our own or of other Yearly Meetings.

7. Our dear Friend, Caroline Lukens, Assistant Clerk, whose place has never been vacant before, sent a message of love accompanied with deep regret that she was unable to attend, and we who know her, know full well that no trivial cause would prevent her from participating in our work.

8.—Representatives are desired to confer at the rise of this meeting and report to next session, suitable Friends to serve as Clerk and Assistant.

Then adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

SECOND-DAY AFTERNOON.

Near the time adjourned to, Friends again assembled.

9.—Josephine I. Welch, on behalf of the Representatives, reports the names of Elizabeth H. Coale for Clerk and Elizabeth Mills for Assistant. On separate consid-

eration they are united with and are accordingly appointed to that service for the following year.

10.—We find the minutes of last year not recorded owing to the indisposition of our former Recorder.

11.—Fannie Smith was appointed to that service and desired to record the past year's minutes as well as those of the present year and report next year.

12.—Huldah R. Smith, Treasurer, informs us she has spent but 25 cents the past year, leaving a balance of $14.75 on hand, which the meeting deems sufficient for the present year, and continues her as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

13.—Our correspondent, Mary G. Smith, informs she performed the duties entrusted her, and she is continued in the service for the ensuing year and our other correspondent released.

14.—A proposition coming from Men Friends to reimburse committees for time and money expended for work which cannot be attended to during the sessions of the meeting, claimed our consideration. We unite with them in appointing a committee to take the subject under advisement. As such committee we appoint Sarah P. Wilson, Lydia E. Wilson, Hannah S. Mills, Lauretta H. Nichols, Margaret M. Merrit, Sarah S. Coale, Ann Eliza Harrison, Mary G. Smith and Ann Welch.

Then adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, 3rd of the week and 14th of the month.

THIRD-DAY FORENOON.

At the time adjourned to, Friends again assembled.

15.—An Epistle from Genesee Yearly Meeting was received this morning, which, like those from other Yearly Meetings, contained much to cheer and counsel us.

16.—The consideration of the state of society came before us by the reading and answering of the queries, which proceeded as far as the sixth, when we received a visit from three of our brothers, Edward Coale, Thomas H. Trueblood and Benjamin F. Nichols, all of whom were deeply exercised and gave many words of tender counsel and encouragement, which we will do well to heed.

Then adjourned until 2 p. m.

THIRD-DAY AFTERNOON.

Punctual to the time designated, Friends again assembled.

17.—The reading of the remainder of the queries having been concluded, these summaries are adopted as portraying our present condition, which we think on the whole, presents a hopeful aspect.

Answers to Queries.

Answer to 1st.—With a few exceptions, our members when able to do so, are diligent in the attendance of our meetings, on First-days and for business, but those in the middle of the week are more neglected, and a more faithful attendance would be conducive to Spiritual life. Unbecoming behavior in most of our meetings avoided. The hour for meeting nearly observed.

Ans. to 2d.—Fellowship and good-will not only cordially maintained among most, but an increase is noted in one Monthly Meeting.

Ans. to 3d.—In apparel most of our members keep within the bounds of reasonable simplicity, both in reference to themselves and those under their care. They appear thoughtful to encourage plain and honest speech and kindness and gentle dignity of deportment, and a guarded care is extended against frivolous

and pernicious literature, selecting that which is suitable in its stead. More care should be used in guarding against corrupt conversation. The reading of the Scriptures is encouraged, but more diligence in this respect is advised.

Ans. to 4th.—Our members are clear of importing, distilling or vending intoxicants, and almost entirely clear of their use; they are thoughtful to extend a temperance influence in thier respective neighborhoods and to discourage the use of tobacco, as both useless and injurious. There is a watchful care exercised against attending places of unprofitable or demoralizing tendencies, though not altogether clear of doing so.

Ans. to 5th.—We believe Friends endeavor to aid those who need help, by assisting them as the circumstances and conditions of each case require. Public schools afford facilities for needful instruction.

Ans. to 6th.—We endeavor to maintain a faithful testimony in favor of a free Gospel ministry, and against the various evils enumerated in this Query.

Ans. to 7th.—As far as known, Friends are careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves beyond their ability; are just in their dealings and reasonably punctual in complying with their engagements; a care is extended to those who are careless in this respect.

Ans. to 8th.—We believe patient and Christian care has been extended to those who violate our vital testimonies with a view to their restoration, yet more faithfulness and care would perhaps be desirable.

Ans. to 9th.—Our members are careful to give their children and those under their care, an education in conformity with the requirements of this Query, as far as possible under existing circumstances, and are endeavoring to raise the morals of our public schools to the

standard queried after. We have no schools under our immediate care.

Ans. to 10th.—The Queries have been read, and answered as directed.

Ans. to 11th.—No Meetings have been established or discontinued.

18.—Lydia A. Wilson, on behalf of the committee, informs that the minutes of last year entrusted to their care were prepared and forwarded as directed.

19.—Emma Price, on behalf of the Epistolary Committee, reports their duties performed.

Then adjourned to meet to-morrow afternoon in joint session.

FIFTH-DAY AFTERNOON,

16th of the Month, Friends again met.

20.—The Epistolary Committee produced Epistles addressed to all our Yearly Meetings, which were read and with a few alterations approved and directed to the care of the following committee for necessary transcribing, signing and placing in the hands of our Yearly Meeting Correspondent, Mary G. Smith, for the performance of her duties: Emma Price, Edith Griffith, Mary G. Smith, Martha Wilson, Julia A. Scranton.

21.—Emma Price is instructed to inform the Janitor of the wish of the meeting that two reflector lamps and one high lamp for the stand be purchased and placed in order for our next Yearly Meeting, and call on our Treasurer for the necessary sum.

Minute of Exercises.

Much good counsel was handed forth at this time. We were reminded of the importance of obedience to the will of God. That in the system of worlds each

kept its place, the plant and animal creations all obey the law of their being, and we should not be less active.

The test of all our actions should be "Is it consistent with the laws of God?" ever remembering that we do not in this life attain that state of perfection in which we cannot by disobedience fall from a state of grace.

But if we "Watch and Pray," the universal love of God will be round about us from childhood to old age. We are called to "Come all, come early, come fresh to the feast that is prepared."

The diversity of gifts was portrayed and we were urged to seek and find the blessing of a Christian religion.

Our attention was drawn in a beautiful and impressive manner to the Christian virtues.

We have a minute for but one visiting friend in attendance with us, but to all, both with and without minutes, a cordial welcome is extended.

The letters from our Sister Yearly Meetings were cheering and comforting, giving us new courage to work.

We are sensibly aware of a great loss in the absence of so many of our efficient workers, and felt that a more earnest effort would be required on the part of those present to accomplish the work before us.

As the state of Society was considered by the reading and answering of queries we felt that we could be encouraged by the hopeful outlook. A very acceptable visit was received from three of the Brethren. They were exercised that mothers should realize the import ance of a mother's influence upon her children, and especially her sons.

There is a hope among us that ere long there will be no partition wall between the sexes. That each needs the sympathy and help of the other, and that we all need to come unto the Father and receive of His spirit and be strengthened for His work, which in faith we have asked.

22.—Having been favored to transact the business coming before us in much harmony and condescension of opinion, we conclude to meet again next year as usual, if so permitted.

EPISTLES RECEIVED AND READ.

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS, HELD IN PHILADELPHIA FROM THE 10TH OF FIFTH-MONTH, TO THE 14TH OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE, 1886.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, to be held in Illinois.

DEAR FRIENDS: Assembled in our Annual Convocation, we desire to greet you, our Sisters, in loving remembrance of our common aims and aspirations, and one common faith. We acknowledge the truth, that if we have supreme love and allegiance to the Heavenly Father, it will extend its influence to the whole family of our fellow man. It will surely impel us to acts of thoughtful benevolence and helpful beneficence, and to a joyful participance in every active effort for the elevation of the depressed and degraded; for the strengthening of the feeble knees, and the upholding of the weak hands.

The world can neither give nor take away the peace of God from the true disciple. None can know it but those who are faithful in doing the will of the Father of Spirits, and none can fail to attain it who patiently follow the Divine guidance. We are assured "that there remaineth a rest for the people of God;" but this rest is not in slothful inactivity and indifference, nor in self-confident, willing and working without close attention to that light upon the pathway, of

which the devout and faithful of all times bear witness. The way of Christ is an endless progress. One attainment in spiritual life, is but the stepping-stone to a higher plane of action, if we are faithful to manifested duty. "The ingrafted word" is indeed quick and powerful; the seed of the Kingdom, though the smallest of all seeds, has in it the possibilities of wondrous growth.

We aspire to know of this growth unto strength and wisdom for the true work of our day:—to know of a qualification to become true servants of that Christ within, who is our hope of Glory. So shall we be enabled to do good work in the Master's harvest-field. The harvest is plenteous, and the laborers are all too few.

We are conscious that we must work while the light of God shines about us, and the call is for to-day. May the Master have us in His keeping; own us as His, and employ our energies in His blessed service. Then may we feed His sheep indeed, be instrumental in garnering in His harvest, be builders of the true temple to the highest, be in one measure comforters and helpers of the afflicted, be instructors of the blinded and erring, and when our work is done we may attain to the true rest.

We have found the Scriptures of Truth the stronghold of our simple and holy faith, and desire to bear witness of the strength and comfort there is in searching into their treasures with due diligence. They testify of the Eternal Word, and are our best outward help to the Heavenly Wisdom. Therefore we hope to encourage their thoughtful use among us, and to guide the children of our Society to their judicious use by a wise early training. To this we believe it right to direct our energies, hoping to sow the seed of the Kingdom in the hearts of the young. Standard-bearers for the blessed Truth may be qualified if the owning

presence of the Holy Spirit attends us, and the Divine blessing crowns our efforts.

Much of the labor in this part of the heritage during the past year, has been directed to the culture of the young minds and hearts in the Society. Faithful Christian mothers are ever the best instructors of their beloved children, and the sanctified home the best school for the Christian virtues. But the injunction to "Feed the lambs," is ever before us, and responsibility rests with truly qualified minds to lead the children of our fold to such a perception of the Divine virtues as they can attain in their tender years. We believe the wise Monarch of Israel was *truly* wise when he affirmed that if we train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it.

Our best hope is ever in the future. We must "Sow beside all waters," knowing of a truth that it is God alone who giveth the increase. We salute you in that love that cements the church, and binds into oneness the family of God the Father.

Signed by direction of the Yearly Meeting.

MARGARETTA WALTON, *Clerk.*

FROM BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS HELD BY ADJOURNMENT FROM THE 26TH OF TENTH-MONTH TO 29TH OF SAME, INCLUSIVE, 1885.

To Illinois Yearly Meeting of Women Friends:

DEAR FRIENDS:—It is with feelings of deep gratitude to the Head of the Church that we are permitted at this time to meet together. We are truly thankful that you, dear sisters, can send to us from beyond the mountains, such words of cheer as your Epistle contains. You tell us of the increased interest taken in your meetings, nd that the outlook for the society is bright. Surely

no sweeter, more cheering words could come to us, and we feel to respond to these sentiments with grateful hearts, and most earnestly hope that you may continue to grow and extend your borders still farther over the great west.

That your meetings may be rich in the knowledge of that love which is born of God, and worketh to the purifying of the heart.

If you keep very near to the Father, He will add to your storehouses rich food for the nourishment of your immortal Soul. He will be ever ready to guide and direct you in the path that leadeth unto righteous ness.

Fear not to call upon Him in your hours of greatest need, and though at times you may feel that you are, as it were, in a remote portion of the vineyard, the love of Christ in your heart, will bring you into a nearness with all those who are of His fold.

The reading of your Epistle in our meeting caused many hearts to rejoice, and a feeling of thankfulness arose, that the Arm of the Everlasting Father was around you. Your words of cheer carrying evidence with them of the life and progress in your meetings. Most cordially do we unite with the various excellent sentiments therein contained. With you we feel an earnest desire that the young may be encouraged to come forward and join in the labor which is open to all who feel called by the Master.

As the rays of the sun shed light and warmth on every thing in the material world, so the love of our Heavenly Father is extended toward every heart.

And the Lord's chosen people are those who choose Him. We entreat them, with Him for their guide, to enter the Father's vineyard where the fields are white unto harvest, and the laborers few. Thus will their interest in our meetings be increased. The young mind, loves to find a place to work, and surely we have room

for all those who come with hearts filled with an honest yearning for a place in which to exercise the gift, that the Almighty Father has bestowed upon them.

Our meeting this year is a large one, quite a number of dear Friends are with us from other Yearly Meetings whose company and labor of love are very acceptable and give us renewed strength "to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus."

Many subjects of interest have been brought before us for our consideration, and so deeply have they taken hold of us that there scarcely seems time for the many earnest hearts to express what the Master has given them to hand forth.

There is open before us at this time a large field of labor for all who feel that they can give it the attention of a thoughtful mind and willing heart. We have been reminded and very justly so, that we must exercise a care we do not undertake too much, and in our eagerness for an outlet for our active minds, get away from the Fountain Head. Let us, dear Friends, keep at the feet of the Master and be very sure we hear the call aright before we respond too quickly. While we would in no wise wish to hinder any one from working in the direction they feel is the right place for them, we must be very careful to ask guidance from the source of all light and power. Let all be done in His name and for the love of Him who has promised to teach His people.

Some are led into the temperance cause; some feel that the First-day School is the place for them; others are called to the ministry.

And thus we may all find something to do for the Master.

We esteem it a high privilege that we are permitted at this time to assemble together so many earnest laborers from various parts of the vineyard. There must

be strength gained by our thus mingling together and uniting our interests in the society, and we are very sure if our young people (who feel sometimes inclined to leave us to join other denominations) would wait in a prayerful spirit until their minds became more mature and more capable of comprehending the beauty and simplicity of our religion, they would feel only too thankful that they had not listened to that which, to their young minds, seemed a clearer view of spiritual truth.

"Neither in this mountain, nor yet in Jerusalem, do I worship the Father, but the hour cometh and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

In the love of the Gospel, we are your Sisters.

Signed on behalf of the meeting by

ANNA F. MATTHEWS, *Clerk*,
Oregon P. O., Baltimore Co., Md.

ELIZABETH M. KOZER, *Assistant*,
Guernsey, Adams Co., Pa.

FROM NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS, HELD BY ADJOURNMENTS, FROM THE 24TH OF FIFTH-MONTH TO THE 28TH OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE, 1886.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends of Illinois:—

DEAR SISTERS: Another year has passed and we have again been permitted to come together from our several homes and assemble in a Yearly Meeting capacity.

Epistles from all our sister meetings have been received and read to our edification and encouragement The feeling was expressed that these exercised sisters

must have gone deep to bring forth the treasures which were spread before us. The large number of Friends from other Yearly Meetings, who are present with us, has strengthened us and made us renewedly sensible of the love of our Heavenly Father. As Friend meets Friend with a warm pressure of the hand, inquiring after the physical health, we have been reminded that it would be well to inquire alike for the spiritual. How is it with thee, my sister? "Are the seeds of disease implanted in thy Spiritual nature?" If so, there is a Great Physician ever ready to heal; needing only thy acquiescence in His commands, which He will make known in thy heart.

As we reflect upon the beautiful code of laws given to our society, let each one make a personal investigation and see how far we are living up to its requirements. Do we feel that we have been delinquent in any of the important duties enjoined therein. Then let us endeavor to be more faithful in the future, remembering the inestimable privilege we enjoy in being members of the only religious society where woman, in matters of the church, is accorded an equal voice with man.

Have we estimated the effect of individual influence upon the minds of our children? The command was given to Israel of old that they should "labor in the morning, at the noontime, by the wayside, and at the evening hour," that the seed sown in early life might bring forth fruit to the praise and glory of the Great Creator.

As wives and mothers, we have been most tenderly and lovingly counseled to seek to live under the Divine guidance, which, alone, can qualify us for the faithful performance of our duties; and, though we may not always realize our highest anticipations, that we be none the less careful to act well *our* part.

In the service of the Church, we may be looking for

higher things than we are yet able to receive. If we labor honestly to perform each duty, however small, the service will be acknowledged and way will be opened for more important duties in the Master's cause. Time will be found, when meeting-day comes, for us to take our seat there with our little children. This is but our reasonable duty and one that brings with it a rich reward.

The First-day School Question has commanded more than usual interest in our meeting. Believing that the schools have proved to be valuable aids in the dissemination of our religious principles among the young, while their minds are tender and susceptible to good impressions, it has been a cause of thankfulness to many engaged in the work, that our religious society has seen it right to extend to them its fostering care.

The subject of philanthropic work which had previously claimed our attention, has been revived at this time and resulted in an appointment of a large committee to engage in such labor as way may open therefor. The subjects of Temperance and the promotion of the welfare of the Indians, have been referred to this committee.

The reports coming up from our different Quarterly Meetings give evidence of a deep and growing interest in the cause of Temperance.

With the many fields of usefulness opening before us and calling for practical work, we have been reminded of the great importance of that true, silent waiting before God, which alone can satisfy the soul and qualify us for all availing labor. And now, dear sisters, with hearts full of love, we bid you farewell.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

AMANDA K. MILLER, *Clerk.*

FROM OHIO YEARLY MEEING OF WOMEN FRIENDS, CONVENED AT MT. PLEASANT, THE 30TH OF EIGHTH-MONTH, 1886.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends of Illinois:

DEAR SISTERS: How sweet are the morsels we share with each other when we are blessed with a spiritual feast. This has been our experience upon hearing your kindly greeting, which has been read together with those from other Yearly Meetings, each tending to give encouragement and strength, as they bear evidence of good work for the Master and a sincere desire for the growth and advancement of truth and righteousness, not only within our borders but for the whole human family, each member of which we feel to be equally precious to Him whose tender care is over all, and who is ever wooing us by His love and calling upon us to come up higher, that we may more and more enjoy the beauties of holiness and drink from that fountain of pure and living waters which alone can satisfy the soul.

As the state of society was brought before us by the reading and answering of our important queries, much solemnity prevailed, and we were made to feel that the indwelling spirit of the Father, which is able to make us alive and direct us aright, was present with us.

Although we have to acknowledge deficiencies in regard to the faithful maintenance of some of our testimonies, we are encouraged by our answers, testifying to our clearness in so large a proportion of them.

As our Heavenly Father is, as ever he was, the teacher of His people himself, may we not lack in firmness in upholding the beauty and propriety of silent worship, but be willing to assemble ourselves together, abiding in stillness for the ministration of the spirit, whether silently or vocally dispensed, that we be sustained and thus renew our spiritual strength, and be

enabled to walk uprightly and honorably; be kindly affectionate one toward another, mild and forgiving to all, thus proving how blessed a thing is practical righteousness, a righteousness our Divine Master approved, and for which he will repay us with that pure joy and peace which the world cannot give, neither take away.

Our interest in the cause of temperance remains unabated, and we feel that we fall short in duty without performing all that arises in the life to aid in suppressing the gigantic evil of dealing in or partaking of intoxicants.

We have the company of a number of dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose presence has been cheering to us, and we hope and trust the labor of love they have extended will be as a stimulant to every good work our Heavenly Director may point out for us to do.

With fervent desires that we may, in the future as in the past, be brought near together in affectionate remembrance by the sweet interchange of epistolary greetings, we bid you farewell,

And remain your sisters.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

JANE EDGERTON, *Clerk.*

FROM GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, HELD BY ADJOURNMENTS FROM THE 14TH OF SIXTH-MONTH TO THE 17TH OF THE SAME INCLUSIVE, 1886.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held in Illinois:—

DEAR SISTERS: Again are we met in a Yearly Meeting capacity to transact the business that has been brought together from the various smaller meetings that compose this our General Assembly.

No partition wall divides the sexes. Fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, have sat down together and unitedly attended to the affairs concerning the Church.

If any feared that the blessing would be withheld because of the changes that have been made in the manner of conducting our meetings, their doubts have been removed and their hearts kindled with emotion as they behold the beauty of Christian fellowship, as revealed in the harmonious working of the two branches as one body.

As we look into the countenances of earnest men and women assembled from the busy walks of life who have left their family cares and pressing duties in the All-Father's watchful care, to thus unitedly work for the spread of the Gospel, whose truth reaches out to every state and condition in life, we feel encouraged and our zeal renewed to work for humanity.

The answers to the queries sent up from the smaller meetings gave no evidence of a declining interest in things of vital importance.

That some meetings could not be kept up, called forth expressions of regret.

It was remarked that the first query in regard to the attendance of meetings would be more fully complied with, were the second more fully lived up to in regard to love and fellowship. It is a duty we owe to one another in the attendance of our Mid-week Meetings.

If the time might be spent at home as profitable to ourselves, yet we have no right to disappoint others who have made the effort to assemble.

Intemperance with all its hideous unfoldings claim alike the attention of the scientific, the social, and spiritual minded.

It presents a field in which they of the one talent and they of the ten talents can find room to work.

Science stands boldly up and calls alcohol the essence

of death, and not the good creature of God, only harmful when taken in excess.

All spiritual life must yield to the demands of physical appetite and passion when the *will* power is under control of alcohol. There is also a growing concern to place tobacco by the side of alcohol, as a poison degrading in its effects upon the human system.

Our Quarterly Meeting reports a Temperance Conference held at the time of each Quarterly Meeting, at which a programme of exercises had been prepared, old and young participating. Thus the temperance sentiment is strengthened.

A report of the Committee on Indian Affairs seem to call for renewed efforts on the part of Friends to help the red man secure his rights as a citizen—for theirs must be a feeling of responsibility rather than that of dependence—that will not be a burden to others, or suffer himself to be trampled out of existence.

Our First-day School Conference evinced an earnest desire on the part of the workers, to obey the injunction of the Master to "Feed my lambs."

The hearts of fathers and mothers are gladdened by the interest manifested for their children, and by their children in all that pertains to a life consistent with Divine guidance.

Although Friends may have taken up this part of the work of the Church later than others, yet the injunction seems applicable to us. "In the morning sow thy seed and in the evening withhold not thine hand for thou knowest not which may prosper, this or that."

Dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings have been with us; and their counsel and advice have been a strength and help to us.

And we trust that they with us will return each to our several homes, refreshed in spirit and strong to serve the Lord and our fellow-men.

With feelings of love, we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

MARY T. FREEMAN, } *Clerks.*
JONATHAN D. NOXEN, }

FROM INDIANA YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS, HELD BY ADJOURNMENTS FROM 28TH OF NINTH-MONTH TO THE 1ST OF TENTH-MONTH, INCLUSIVE, 1885.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held in Illinois:—

DEAR SISTERS: In addressing our dear sisters of your Yearly Meeting, we desire that our spirits may be guided by the inspiration, which it is promised will give us an understanding. We have been abundantly blessed with that unity of spirit which will cement us into that sisterhood which is in Christ. We have acceptably with us ministering Friends from other Yearly Meetings. These on First-day addressed us acceptably in the Divine attribute of love, "A new commandment give I unto you that ye love one another as I have loved you." We were shown the applicability of this love to us to-day, that it must be entirely unselfish; that it must be shown first in the home circle, where its influence will prompt us to seek the good of every member, whether returned by them or not. From such a home there emanates an influence for good to all with whom its inmates come in contact. From such a home we are prepared to go forth into our business relations, with such love for our fellow-men, that all unjust advantage — the taking of value without an equivalent — all defalcations will fall before us and be as things dead. From here we go into our religious assemblies, all standing on

an equality before the Father, not presuming upon our experience or talents, it is the lack of this love, notwithstanding our profession, which makes divisions. Such love will flow as from vessel to vessel, encircling other denominations as well as our own, preserving us from standing in judgment one over another, for if the views they hold lead them to the same love they are one with us, as the trees, all variety, all beauty, all harmony, draw their substance from the soil, and are warmed by the same sun; symbolizing the truth, that if we were all of one mind there could be no advance. We felt strengthened by your message of love, as well as by those from other parts of the vineyard. On Second-day morning our labors were prefaced by supplication from a dear sister from another Yearly Meeting, asking for the Divine blessing on our deliberations. An aged Friend earnestly desired that we might seek a right preparation of heart for our work; that we should lay down all selfishness for the good of each other.

This we esteem a necessity for rightly conducting the affairs of a religious body. Much more good might be accomplished and harmony maintained, if we would be prompt in speaking our sentiments, checking all attempt to unduly urge our own views, yielding them to that of the body. It is better for a season to suffer from what may appear to us an unwise measure, and to the disadvantage of the body, than to adopt prematurely that which is not acceptable.

In considering the condition of society, much interest was manifested even among the young, and an especial concern was expressed for the mothers, that they might prayerfully strive to perform aright their most responsible duty.

We have held two informal meetings of interested Friends, to consider the best means for promoting the good of society. Much interest was manifested and we trust that Friends will humbly seek the right guidance

in these important considerations. The subject of temperance claims the earnest attention of many, and whenever way presents to educate on this subject, we believe it is done, though we differ as to the means employed. If we are faithful to our Guide, giving others the privilege we desire for ourselves, we may labor in unity to the end of the great object in view.

As we were advised by a dear Brother, we must not be idle; while our dependence is on God, we must do our part; we must plant and water, and leave the increase to Him. Believing that we have a measure of that love for you, which He hath for us, we bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed in and by direction of the meeting.

ANNA N. STARR, *Clerk.*

DATES OF MEETINGS.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

Will open at 10 A. M. on the second Second-day before the last First-day in the Ninth-month of each year (or Ninth-month, 12, 1887).

The Meeting of Ministers and Elders gathers at 10 A. M., on the Seventh-day preceding Yearly Meeting.

The Representative Committee meets at 8 A. M. of Second-day on which the Yearly Meeting opens. The meeting for worship is held during Yearly Meeting week, at 10 A. M. on Fourth-day.

The Illinois First-day School Association meets at 3 o'clock, Seventh-day afternoon preceding Yearly Meeting, and at 8 P. M. on Third-day of Yearly Meeting week.

Blue River Quarterly Meeting will be held at Benjaminville, McLean County, Illinois, at 10 A. M. on the fourth Seventh-day, in Second-month and on the Seventh-day, one week preceding the Yearly Meeting in Ninth-month. At Blue River, Washington County, Indiana, on the fourth Seventh-day in the Fifth-month. At Clear Creek, Putnam County, Illinois, on the fourth Seventh-day in the Eleventh-month.

The Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders will be held at 2 P. M. on the day preceding the Quarterly Meetings.

Blue River Quarterly First-day School Association, at 8 P. M. on Sixth-days preceding the Quarterly Meetings.

Blue River Monthly Meeting will be held the first

Seventh-day in each month. Meetings for Worship on First and Fourth-days, at 11 A. M.

Blue River Executive Meeting will be held on the second Fourth-day in the First, Fourth, Eighth and Tenth-months. Meetings for worship at 11 A. M.

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting will be held on the Seventh-day following the first Fifth-day in each month. Meetings for worship on First and Fifth-days, at 11 A. M.

Benjaminville Monthly Meetings will be held at 11 A. M. on the second Seventh-day following the first Fifth-day in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth-months. In Ninth-month it will be held on the first Seventh-day following the close of Yearly Meeting. Meetings for worship on First-day and on Fifth-days at 11 A. M.

East Jordan Executive Meeting will be held on First-day following the third Seventh-day in Second, Fifth, Eighth and Eleventh-months. Meetings for worship First-days, at 11 A. M. Preparative Meetings will be held at the conclusion of the Executive Meetings.

Chicago Executive Meeting will be held on the second First-day of the Second, Fifth, Eighth and Eleventh-months, at 12 M. Meetings for worship on First-days, at 10:45 A. M. Preparative Meetings will be held on First-days, preceding Executive Meetings, at 12 M.

Indulged Meetings under the care of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, at Seneca, La Salle County, Illinois, on the last First-day in each month, at 11 A. M. At Plainfield, Fulton County, Illinois, on every First-day, at 11 A. M. At West Bureau, Bureau County, Illinois, on every First-day at 11 A. M.

Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting will be held on the first Seventh-day in Third, Sixth and Twelfth-months, and on the Fifth-day preceding Yearly Meeting in Ninth-month. Preparative Meetings will be held at 9:30 A. M. on the day of Quarterly Meetings.

Wapsinonoc Monthly Meeting will be held on the last Seventh-day in each month. Even months at Highland and odd months at West Liberty, Iowa. Meetings for worship, First and Fourth-days at West Liberty, and First and Fifth days at Highland, all at 11 A. M.

Marietta Monthly Meeting will be held on the last Seventh-day in each month, at 3 P. M., except on the Ninth-month, when it is held on the first Seventh-day. Meetings for worship on First-days at 11 A. M. First-day School at 10 A. M.

Genoa Monthly Meeting will be held on the third First-day in each month. Meetings for worship every First-day at 11 A. M.

Richland Monthly Meeting will be held at Hoopeston, Illinois, on the first Fifth-day of each month, at 11 A. M.

CLERKS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING.

CLERKS.

Oliver Wilson, Magnolia, Illinois; Elizabeth H. Coale, Holder, McLean County, Illinois.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Morris A. Wilson, Magnolia, Illinois; John H. Mills, 4902 Dearborn Street, Chicago; Mary G. Smith, Hoopeston, Illinois.

TREASURERS.

Amos B. Wilson, Magnolia, Ill.; Huldah K. Smith, Clear Creek, Illinois.

RECORDERS.

Amos B. Wilson, Magnolia, Illinois; Mary A. Mills, Clear Creek, Illinois.

LITERATURE DEPOSITORY CLERK.

Abel Mills, Mt. Palatine, Illinois.

Meeting of Ministers' and Elders' Clerks.—Lauretta H. Nichols, State Center, Iowa; Elizabeth H. Coale, Holder, McLean County, Illinois.

Blue River Quarterly Meeting Clerks.—Griffith E. Coale, Holder, Illinois; Mary Trueblood, Hitchcocks, Indiana.

Blue River Monthly Meeting Clerks.—E. Hicks Trueblood, Hitchcocks, Indiana; Lowry H. Baynes, Salem, Indiana.

Blue River Executive Meeting Clerk.—James W. Heacock, Canton, Indiana.

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting Clerks.—Morris A. Wilson, Magnolia, Illinois; Sarah G. Swaney, Clear Creek, Illinois.

Benjaminville Monthly Meeting Clerks.—Benjamin Coale, Holder, McLean County, Illinois; Rebecca Brown, Holder, McLean County, Illinois.

East Jordan Executive Meeting Clerks.—Edwin John, Penrcse, Illinois; Martha A. John, Penrose, Illinois.

Chicago Executive Meeting Clerks.—Allen J. Flitcraft, 205 LaSalle street, Chicago; Hannah M. Brown, cor. Jackson and Peoria streets, Chicago.

Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting Correspondent.—Joseph A. Dugdale, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting Clerks.—Benj. F. Nichols, State Center, Iowa; Laura B. Marsh, Marshalltown, Iowa.

Prairie Grove Monthly Meeting Correspondent.—Robert Blackburn, Winfield, Iowa.

Prairie Grove Monthly Meeting Clerks.—Edward T. Price, Winfield, Iowa; Sallie A. R. Canby, Winfield, Iowa.

Wapsinonoc Monthly Meeting Correspondent.—Horace G. Welch, Downey, Cedar County, Iowa.

Wapsinonoc Monthly Meeting Clerk.—Elijah Hogue, West Liberty, Iowa.

Marietta Monthly Meeting Correspondent.—Benj. F. Nichols, State Center, Iowa.

Marietta Monthly Meeting Clerk.—Lauretta H. Nichols, State Center, Iowa.

Genoa Monthly Meeting Clerk and Correspondent.—Geo. S. Truman, Genoa, Platte County, Nebraska.

Richland Monthly Meeting Clerk and Correspondent.—Isaac T. Lukens, Hoopeston, Illinois.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEES.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE.

Harley Cooper, Mt. Palatine, Putnam Co., Ill.
James W. Heacock, Canton, Ind.
J. Warner Coale, Holder, McLean Co., Ill.
Mahlon Hollingsworth, Downey, Iowa.
Thomas D. Tomlinson, Marietta, Iowa.
Thomas C. Price, Winfield, Henry County, Iowa.
Richard M. Lukens, Hoopeston, Ill.
Edward Coale, Holder, McLean Co., Ill.
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Caroline Lukens, Hoopeston, Ill.
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George S. Truman, Genoa, Nebraska.

Barclay Mundy, Chanute, Neosho Co., Kan.
Walker Vale, White Rock, Republic Co., Kan.

ALLEN J FLITCRAFT, *Clerk.*
205 La Salle St., Chicago.

VISITING COMMITTE APPOINTED UNDER MINUTE NO. 57. (1886.)

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Thomas E. Hogue, Downey, Iowa.
David Wilson, Evans, Ill.
Sarah Ann Coale, Holder, Ill.
Thos. H. Trueblood, Hitchcock's, Ind.
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Phœbe Russell.

ABEL MILLS, *Clerk.*
Mt. Palatine, Ill.

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